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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

NATION

Sen. Marco Rubio says immigration deal needs tough terms.
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Despite tensions, North Korea lets in tourists and athletes.
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LIFE & STYLE

Fifty Shades' series makes it to the list of challenged books.
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3 arrested for alleged theft of copper tubings. PAGE 5
Study: Sea to inundate Pacific isles sooner. PAGE 13

Chinese investors get picky over US 'visa-for-cash' deal

By JAMES V. GRIMALDI, ANGUS LOTEN and VANESSA O'CONNELL
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

STOWE, Vt.—Johannes von Trapp, a scion of the family depicted in *The Sound of Music*, has spent the past year and a half trying to lure foreigners to invest in his ski lodge and brewery here in northern New England, dangling the possibility of U.S. visas as part of the deal.

He has flown to China three times and made his pitch to hundreds of the nation's wealthy. He has regularly invoked the story of his parents' escape from Nazi-occupied Austria and the resulting movie, which became a favorite in China decades after it was made. He even found himself reluctantly leading a group of Beijing children in a rendition of "Edelweiss."

The response thus far: just $2.5 million from five investors, far short of his

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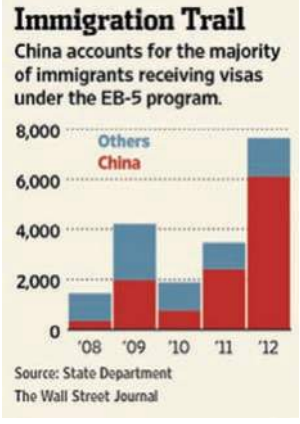
Immigration Trail
China accounts for the majority of immigrants receiving visas under the EB-5 program.



Source: State Department
The Wall Street Journal

DUE TO CORRECTIONS' UNPAID DEBT TO HOSPITAL

Inmates may lose medical services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inmates at the Saipan prison may lose access to medical services at the Commonwealth Health Center due to the Department of Corrections' unpaid obligation, said to be now over $3 million.

The then-Department of Public Health first inked an agreement with Corrections in 1999 for the hospital to provide medical services to prison inmates. Since then, not a single penny

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BASED ON 2010 RECORD OF DECISION

Military ranges on Tinian a 'go'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Even if the CNMI opposes the U.S. Department of Defense's latest plan to build a series of live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, there is already a go-signal to build four live-fire training ranges on Tinian based on a 2010 Record of Decision.

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BEATING THE DEADLINE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A company representative, right, files dozens of 2012 individual income tax returns at the Division of Revenue and Taxation in Dandan yesterday afternoon to beat the April 15 deadline. Compared to previous years, however, the waiting time this year is much shorter.

See story on Page 9

Lawmakers want CDA to issue POB of 'up to $300M'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan) and six other House members pre-filed yesterday a bill authorizing the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds "up to $300 million" on behalf of the CNMI to pay the government's obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund.

"All of it will go to our Retirement Fund. We worked on this bill in line with the administration and the Legislature's

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MORE INSIDE

➤ TSL Foundation donates hotel stays for FTAF delegates. PAGE 6

➤ Board wants hospital's budget plan revised. PAGE 7
➤ Governor's Choice Award added to art contest. PAGE 9

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Local

CHINESE

From Page 1

goal of $22 million from 44 investors by June.

President Barack Obama has championed the special immigration program known at EB-5 as an engine of job creation. A foreigner who invests at least $500,000 in a qualified U.S. business is entitled to a green card—provided the invested money puts at least 10 Americans to work. American businesses raised more than $1.8 billion through the program in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, and 7,641 would-be immigrants were issued visas. Eighty percent of them were Chinese.

But as the 74-year-old von Trapp has discovered, would-be investors are getting much pickier. American businesses ranging from fast-food franchises to biofuel facilities to meatpacking plants are now competing for EB-5 funds. Some projects haven't produced the requisite number of jobs—prompting U.S. immigration authorities to withhold green cards. And word has spread about investment money disappearing in failed businesses or outright frauds.

"It's much more difficult than I anticipated," says von Trapp.

U.S. authorities say they have slowed visa approval because of fraud suspicions and defects in job-creation estimates by developers. Authorities also acknowledge their reviews of those estimates have been flawed. Last year, the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services agency, which oversees the program, hired a half dozen economists to better assess the job-production claims.

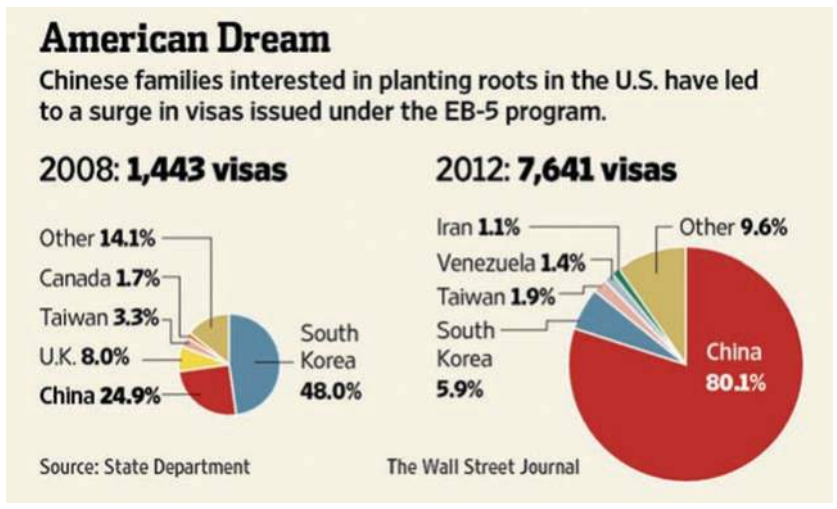
"We have been very focused on ensuring the integrity of the program, working collaboratively with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulatory and enforcement authorities," says U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas, a former federal prosecutor.

Last month, the SEC said it had filed its first lawsuit against an EB-5 project, in Chicago federal court, alleging that the promoters of a Chicago hotel-and-convention-center plan had fraudulently sold more than $145 million in securities and collected $11 million in administrative fees from more than 250 Chinese investors. The SEC said some of the funds had been misappropriated and nothing had been built. A lawyer for the developer told a federal judge late last month that his client favors returning the $145 million, now in an escrow fund, to investors.

The added scrutiny has created a bottleneck. In the two-year period ended Sept. 30, 9,845 foreigners applied to invest in EB-5 projects. During that same period, 5,240 waiting applicants were approved and 1,328 denied. Thousands remain in limbo or have dropped out as the immigration agency continues to assess their applications.

The EB-5 program was created by Congress in 1990 to help lift the economy out of recession. It attracted minimal interest from U.S. businesses until the financial crisis hit in 2008 and traditional sources of financing got harder to tap.

Since then, numerous reputable businesses, large and small, have used the program to raise money. Marriott International Inc., MAR +0.90 percent Hyatt Hotels Corp. H -0.44 percent and Hilton Worldwide Inc. are teaming up with EB-5 investment funds to build new hotels. An EB-5 project in Los Angeles raised money for Sony Pictures Entertainment and Warner Bros. Another in Brooklyn helped fund the Barclays Center, new home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets.



Entrepreneurs across the nation have set up so-called regional centers to market local EB-5 projects, for a fee, and to provide economic analysis to establish that the projects meet job-production requirements. There are now more than 230 such regional centers. Some of them, such as one in Vermont, were set up by governments for economic-development purposes.

A surge of would-be investors from China has fed the EB-5 boom. Wealthy Chinese have become more interested in planting roots in the U.S., which they view as a desirable place to park assets, educate their children and, in many cases, establish residency.

An entire industry has cropped up in China to connect such investors with EB-5 opportunities. Hundreds of immigration-consulting firms, licensed by China's regional authorities, help U.S. businesses find investors, collecting fees and commissions as high as $175,000 per investor.

Bob Kraft, the president of FirstPathways Partners LLC, which oversees EB-5 projects for a regional center in Milwaukee, has been to China 43 times in recent years and has raised more than $100 million from 200 investors for Wisconsin hotel and manufacturing projects. "A lot of the new folks who have jumped in don't understand how complex it is," says Kraft. "It takes time to build trust over there."

Problem projects promoted by incompetent or dishonest American businessmen have put Chinese investors on edge. Albert Young, an EB-5 consultant in Shanghai who knows of Chinese families sent home without green cards, said: "No one really knows the rules, and there is a lot of misrepresentation going on to get those investors."

Dozens of investors from China and other countries have sued various businesses participating in the program. In Louisiana last year, about 31 investors, at least 15 from China, filed a federal lawsuit alleging the only thing they had to show for a $15.5 million investment was an undeveloped plot of land across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. A lawyer for two American fundraisers for the project says they are seeking to dismiss the suit, arguing in part that immigration authorities thwarted the project by rejecting investors's job-creation estimates.

In San Bruno, Calif., three Chinese investors allege in a lawsuit filed last year in state court that they lost $3 million when an EB-5 developer disappeared after he faked a heart attack in a karaoke bar and his associates concocted a story about his death. In January the court awarded investors a default judgment because the developers never appeared.

Cherry Qian, 24, a graduate student from Shanghai living in Washington, invested $500,000 in a Moberly, Mo., artificial-sweetener factory in 2011.

Continued on Next Page

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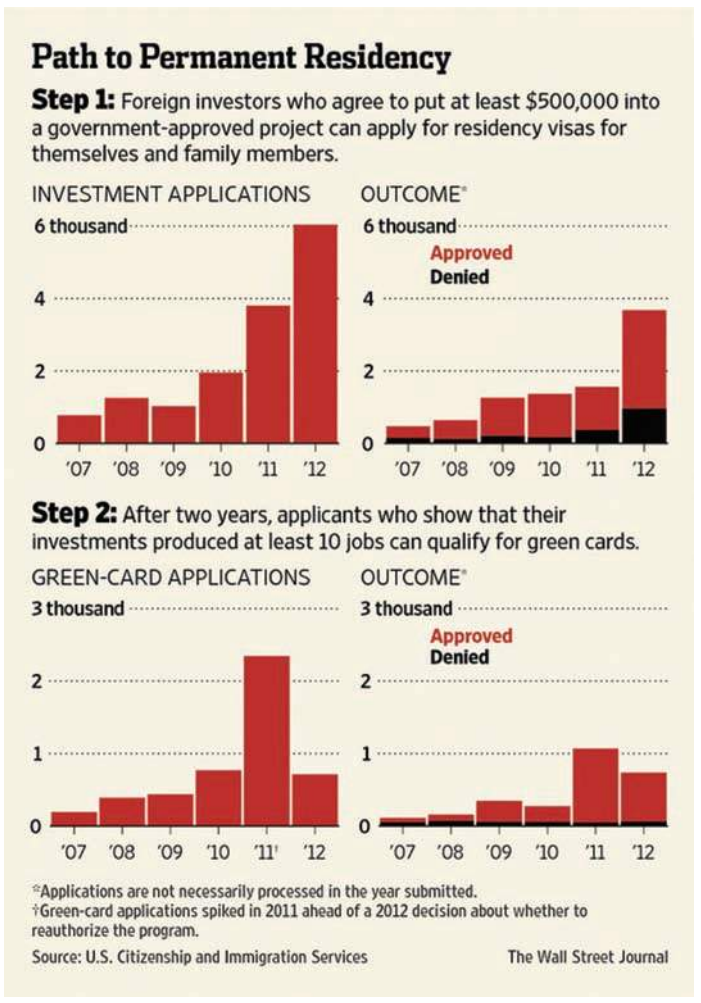
Path to Permanent Residency
Step 1: Foreign investors who agree to put at least $500,000 into a government-approved project can apply for residency visas for themselves and family members.
INVESTMENT APPLICATIONS
OUTCOME*
6 thousand
4
2
0
Approved
Denied
'07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12
Step 2: After two years, applicants who show that their investments produced at least 10 jobs can qualify for green cards.
GREEN-CARD APPLICATIONS
OUTCOME*
3 thousand
2
1
0
Approved
Denied
'07 '08 '09 '10 '11† '12
*Applications are not necessarily processed in the year submitted.
†Green-card applications spiked in 2011 ahead of a 2012 decision about whether to reauthorize the program.
Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
The Wall Street Journal

From Page 2

Last year, Missouri officials arrested the developer and accused him of stealing $700,000 in municipal-bond money and using some of it to save his Beverly Hills home from a foreclosure auction. A lawyer for the developer says his client denies the charges. The case is pending. Qian says she recovered her money from a licensed immigration consultant in Beijing, but lost a $40,000 fee.

That was the landscape von Trapp faced when he began his quest in 2011. The family business, centered on the Trapp Family Lodge, needed money to renovate guest rooms, build more timeshare units and expand a craft-beer business. Jay Peak Resorts and Sugarbush Resort, two other ski resorts in the state, and Country Home Products Inc., an outdoor-power-equipment maker, had cumulatively raised more than $300 million in EB-5 money, according to the state. Those businesses are part of the Vermont Regional Center set up by the state.

Von Trapp considered other financing options, including a Vermont Economic Development Authority program that uses bond money combined with a bank loan. He decided that the most favorable option would be to use mostly EB-5 money.

The Trapp Family Lodge had been hit hard by the recession, as was the entire Vermont tourism industry. In 2012, the lodge notched a net loss of $456,053, compared with a profit of $166,000 the prior year, according to von Trapp's accountant.

A consultant who helps market EB-5 projects to immigration agents in China told von Trapp his family's history would be a big plus in reaching the Chinese. Beginning in the late 1970s, as censorship receded at the end of the Cultural Revolution, *The Sound of Music* was screened widely, becoming a favorite.

James Dwinell, a former Trapp Family Lodge board member who twice traveled with von Trapp in China, said the 1965 movie resonates with the Chinese. "For a generation of, in particular, women in China, they grew up with the *The Sound of Music*, and they know every word to every song," he says.

On von Trapp's first marketing trip to China, he tried to sell limited partnership shares that would give investors preferred stock in the company. Chinese investors "were unimpressed," he says. They didn't understand why a limited partnership would give them no control over lodge management.

So he restructured the deal as debt. He is now offering shares in a limited partnership that will lend money to the business, at a low 1 percent annual interest rate, to be paid off in five years.

Under EB-5 rules, the lodge's losses last year were significant enough for it to qualify as a "troubled business." There is a benefit to that. In its job-production tally—the all-important number that determines whether green cards will be issued—the Trapp Family Lodge can count preserved jobs as well as created jobs.

In the offering materials, von Trapp's economist asserts the finished project will not only preserve 200 jobs at the lodge, but also will create 904 new jobs within three years—66 jobs at the Trapp Lager brewery and restaurant, and the rest "indirect" jobs as the capital spending ripples through the economy.

"The number one concern of investors is whether the brewery project will create enough jobs," says von Trapp.

For obvious reasons, the troubled-business label can spook potential investors. Sam von Trapp, the 40-year-old son of Johannes, who traveled to China for 18 days in November and December to recruit investors, says it has been a "a huge stigma."

One Saturday in December, about two dozen people gathered in a hotel conference room in Beijing. Sam von Trapp, wearing a jacket like Christopher Plummer's in "The Sound of Music," presented a slide show. "Our motto at the Trapp Family Lodge is: 'A little bit of Austria, a lot of Vermont,' " he said. "Some of you may be familiar with my family's history from the movie 'The Sound of Music.'"

One 55-year-old attendee said she is an employee of a state-owned enterprise. She said she is looking for a better living environment and a good education for her child.

"My daughter is 10 years old now, and I want her to study in the U.S. after middle school," said the woman, who identified herself only as Mrs. Wang. "What I'm concerned about this project is that we might lose money if this project is not successful. Or we need to spend more than we expected to invest in this 'Sound of Music' project." Johannes von Trapp later said she didn't invest.

In addition to the five investors he says have already put funds in escrow, about 20 others are "in various stages of transferring their money out" of China to invest, he says—a complex process because of Chinese restrictions on moving money overseas.

Back in the snowy ski town of Stowe, von Trapp sat down recently with a 42-year-old architect from Beijing who was considering investing.

"My family was fortunate enough to come to the United States in 1938," he told his visitor, pausing for a translation into Mandarin. "It is an honor for us to help families come to the United States."

The architect asked detailed questions about the project and the terms of the deal. "How do I know my investment is secure?" he asked at one point. "How will I know that it creates enough jobs for me to qualify for a green card?"

Sam von Trapp gave him a tour of the resort property, showing him von Trapp family homes, a pasture where the family raises cattle for meat for its restaurants, and the existing brewery that made about 1,000 barrels of beer last year, sold at the lodge and in Vermont bars and cafes.

The lodge was full that weekend, so the architect was staying at Johannes von Trapp's house. Von Trapp's gun cabinet, which contains more than 30 rifles, caught his attention.

"If I get a green card, can I buy one of these?" he asked.

"Sure, absolutely," von Trapp replied. "No problem. I'll take you hunting."

In a later email, the architect, who gave his name only as Pan, said he wants to expose his two children to a non-Chinese education system—but he had decided that now wasn't the right time. "I want to wait until the kids are a little bigger," he said, "around high school or so, then immigrate."

Jamila Trindle, Lilian Lin and James Oberman contributed to this article. Reprinted with permission.

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Federal court orders sale of Ambrosio Ogumoro's land

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted the U.S. government's request for an order directing the U.S. Marshal to complete the sale of a piece of land owned by former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro so he could pay part of the penalty for a fishing boat oil spill in 2004.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered that the writ of execution be issued by the court's clerk to assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz.

Manglona said the writ of execution shall order the U.S. Marshal to complete the sale of the lot by private or public sale.

The writ of execution, the judge said, shall require the transfer of title, divesting Ambrosio Ogumoro and his brother, Police Capt. Aniceto Ogumoro, of any title and interest in the property.

Manglona issued yesterday a separate order denying the Ogumoros' motion to quash the U.S. government's application for a writ of execution.

In the U.S. government's application for writ of execution filed in January, Cruz said that Ambrosio Ogumoro, as well as the previous owner of the land, Leiana K. Ogumoro, agreed to the sale of the property in a settlement agreement executed in a 2009 civil case against Ambrosio and his daughter, Leiana.

Cruz said the settlement agreement stipulates that Ambrosio and Leiana Ogumoro give their consent to the U.S. to sell and receive the entire proceeds from the sale of the land.

Cruz pointed out that partial satisfaction of the default judgment by sale of the lot, as agreed to in the settlement agreement, has not been completed because the title to the property remains with Ambrosio Ogumoro and the property has not been sold.

The Ogumoro brothers, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, opposed the U.S. government's application and moved to quash it.

Cushnie asked the court to enter a finding that the U.S. government is in breach of their settlement agreement.

Cushnie said that by having the various heirs of the Soledad Ogumoro estate agree to give up their regular distribution so as to pay the $2,000 per month required by the settlement agreement, the Ogumoro defendants were and are able to maintain the required monthly payments to the U.S.

In her order, Manglona said the agreement clearly anticipated that Lot 150 E 30 would be sold whether or not there was a default on the monthly payments.

Manglona said if the Ogumoro brothers did not default, they would get two benefits: the judgment against them would in effect be reduced from nearly $4 million (including interest) to $600,000, and they would receive a credit of $250,000 even if the lot sold for less than that amount.

Manglona said in the event of a default, they would lose both benefits.

A fishing boat, owned by Ambrosio Ogumoro and co-defendants, sank within the Tanapag Harbor during a typhoon in June 2004. The U.S. government filed a lawsuit against the Ogumoro brothers and another co-defendant to recover the oil spill cleanup costs.

The defendants failed to defend the lawsuit. As a result, the court issued a default judgment in 2006, finding the defendants liable to pay $3.4 million plus interest.

In 2009, the U.S. government filed another lawsuit against Ambrosio Ogumoro for alleged fraudulent transfer of his land to his daughter.

In 2010, the Ogumoros entered a settlement agreement with the U.S. government.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Class of '73 board meeting today

The Class of '73 Alumni Association Inc. is having a board of director's meeting today, Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at 6:30pm at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jose Salas on Navy Hill. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. ***(PR)***

Labor conducting agricultural and livestock survey

The CNMI Department of Labor will be conducting an agricultural and livestock survey pursuant to a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas is requesting the cooperation and assistance of all farmers to please assist the department's staff in fulfilling this project. For additional information, call Bobbie T. Sablan, Administrative Services manager, at 664-3196. ***(PR)***

INMATES

From Page 1

has been collected for all services rendered to inmates.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board voted Friday to issue a "demand letter" to DOC for the payment of this uncompensated care, amounting to about $240,000 a year since 1999.

To ensure that the board action is legal, the CHCC board consulted in-house counsel Allen Hazlip, who said the corporation is not party to any agreement or consent decree and has the authority to collect what is due the agency. He suggested that a demand letter be sent to DOC explaining its obligation to the corporation.

Corporation COO and CFO Esther Muña was instructed Friday to work with the legal counsel in finalizing the demand letter for DOC.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting that the corporation—under its current financial condition—cannot provide these services for free.

The choice, he said, is either to have a new agreement with DOC or services will be terminated immediately. "We don't want to continue to provide the services without getting any compensation from them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Muña, it was the recommendation of the U.S. Commissioned Corp to demand payment for all medical services rendered to inmates. Under the group's sustainability plan for CHC, the corporation was told to ask for government appropriation for these services for the prison.

Despite some discussions, no new MOU has been executed between Corrections and the corporation since the corporation's inception two years ago, Muña said.

Board member Roy Rios said that on one occasion, CEO Juan N. Babauta and hospital director Karen Buettner had a meeting at DOC where compensation was discussed and where the parties agreed that a document will be put together for each party to sign off. To date, this document has yet to be completed and signed.

Based on Babauta's early budget submission to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, CHC has incurred $9.9 million in uncompensated care that include services to prison inmates. He requested this amount to be reimbursed or appropriated to the corporation, along with $300,000 to pay for its vendors, for the fiscal year 2014 budget.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

goal of helping the Fund," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* hours after pre-filing House Bill 18-50 or the Pension Obligation Bond Authorization Act of 2013.

This comes five months since voters approved during the Nov. 6 elections a legislative initiative amending Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to allow the issuance of a pension obligation bond.

The bond authorization that the bill proposes "does not create an additional liability" on the CNMI's part, its authors say.

"The proposed authorization would only substitute a bond obligation for a judgment obligation," they add.

Under the bill, CDA, on behalf of the CNMI, is authorized to issue, "in one or more series, up to $300 million worth of tax exempt general obligation bonds of the Commonwealth" to fund the government's liability to the Fund.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan), one of the bill's co-authors, separately said that given the CNMI's credit rating, they would be happy to have at least $75 million to $100 million bonds issued.

"The $300 million is the limit," he added.

The CNMI government owes over $300 million in unpaid employer contributions to the Fund. Other autonomous agencies and governmental corporations also have unpaid employer obligations to the pension agency, whose lifespan is expected to last only up to March 2014 unless there's an immediate infusion of cash.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), also a co-author of the POB authorization bill, said this is just among the measures that the House leadership, along with the Cost Cutting and Revenue Generation Committees, is working on.

Deleon Guerrero said among his suggestions is amending the business license law to require businesses to pay a license fee for each of their business location.

For example, an oil company such as Mobil or Shell could be required to pay a business license for each of their service stations. The speaker said the minimum business license fee is $50.

Other revenue-generating and cost-cutting measures that have been prefiled, introduced, or passed included a hotel tax hike, a bill authorizing casino gaming on Saipan, tighter enforcement of tax laws, and a bill raising taxes for so-called "sin tax" hike bill, among other things.

The speaker also said the House awaits Gov. Eloy S. Inos' fiscal year 2014 budget submission to the Legislature. Inos said Friday night that the estimated revenue available for government operations in fiscal year 2014 is $120 million, more than the $114 million that was earlier projected.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said as of yesterday, the governor and the Office of Management and Budget "are still working on the budget submission."

TINIAN

From Page 1

"There's already been a Record of Decision to build four ranges on Tinian and we would probably go ahead and build those four ranges," Hawaii-based Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, however, believes "it won't come to that point" wherein the CNMI would totally oppose DoD's plans.

"There's going to be some balancing acts here. We will be sitting at the negotiation table [with DoD]. It's a long process. …I don't think there's any question about Defense's use [of islands] because we pledged we will cooperate in that regard but we need to talk about that," Inos said in a separate interview.

Some two-thirds of Tinian lands are under lease to the U.S. military.

The latest plan also includes using Pagan. This means the military could lease the entire or a large portion of the island for troops' training.

Whelden was referring to the September 2010 release of a Record of Decision for the Guam and CNMI military buildup's final environmental impact statement.

Under that decision, the military will develop four live-fire training ranges on Tinian: A platoon battle course, an automated combat pistol/military police firearms qualification course, rifle known distance range, and a field firing range.

The Record of Decision's release means that military projects related to the buildup may now proceed. At the time, military officials said construction could start in 2013 or 2014.

These are, however, separate and different from the U.S. military's latest plan to build training ranges on both Tinian and Pagan, specifically "to reduce joint training deficiencies for the military services in the Western Pacific."

Whelden and Inos separately said there are ways to meet halfway so that the concerns and needs of the CNMI government, the DoD, other federal agencies, and other stakeholders will be met.

Arnold Palacios, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary, said, "Pagan is going to be a military island" if the initial plan is implemented as is, and "every marine and terrestrial resources will be impacted, endangered or not."

"What would be the price DoD would be willing to pay for Pagan? And what would be the CNMI's price for that?" Palacios asked.

The CNMI government had offered to lease the Northern Islands, including Pagan, to foreign investors. For years, it had also planned to mine pozzolan on Pagan but the steep price of mining has been a major stumbling block.

Palacios said the CNMI could require or request DoD to help mine and transport from Pagan the pozzolan deposit here.

Inos, for his part, said this will also be part of negotiations.

"Personally I'd like to see if we can accommodate the various needs out there of residents, eco-tourism, for example, the military, and of course, mining pozzolan. But it's going to take consensus here. We just can't make a unilateral decision. I don't think the military will do that as well. We need to sit down and talk," the governor added.

Meanwhile, Whelden said yesterday they will "update the Federal Register this week," to extend the comment period on the proposed EIS for Tinian and Pagan up to May 13, from the original April 29 deadline.

More information is available at www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com.

Below are excerpts from an interview with Whelden.

Saipan Tribune: **Does the U.S. military have a choice if and when the CNMI says "no" to this latest plan on Tinian and Pagan?**

Whelden: We do have a choice. One of the alternatives is no alternative. If that happens, there's already been a Record of Decision to build four ranges on Tinian and we would probably go ahead and build those four ranges. So there are four ranges that have already been decided on. But in terms of the larger scale, if we arrive at a no-decision for whatever reason, we just probably have to proceed with the four ranges that are currently approved and planned.

Question: Will the plan to build live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan lead to a permanent U.S. military base in the CNMI?

Whelden: No. We got a lease between the Department of Defense and CNMI for land on Tinian. So anything we put there is only good for the term of the lease. And at the end of that lease, we either have to renegotiate with the CNMI for the continued use of that land or we have to leave.

Q: With North Korea's threats right now to attack its neighbors, some people in the CNMI are concerned that the islands could also become a target with all these U.S. military plans involving the CNMI. How do you respond to that concern?

Whelden: "When the balloon goes up" is a term used commonly in the military. It basically means "when a war starts." When a war starts, typically the Marine Corps are the first to go. So we wouldn't expect that there would be much training being done here. I can't speak for the Department of Defense about what we would do, where we would go, under what circumstances, but I can tell you that for the most part, when there is a war, we move to the sound of the guns and we wouldn't expect that there would be a lot of Marine Corps anyway staying back. Again this is my personal opinion, that neither Saipan nor Tinian would be a target by anybody who is an aggressor against the United States. I wouldn't expect that.

To be continued.

Three arrested for alleged theft of rolls of copper tubing

Two ex-convicts were arrested over the weekend for the alleged burglary of an establishment in Gualo Rai last month where they stole several rolls of copper tubing and other items. The alleged buyer of some of the stolen items was also arrested.

Christopher R. Ayuyu, 38, and Julian Muña Sablan, 23, were taken to Superior Court yesterday morning on charges of burglary, theft, receiving stolen property, and conspiracy.

Bail was set at $50,000 cash each for Ayuyu and Sablan, who have several prior criminal convictions.

Wang Hong, a 40-year-old man who allegedly purchased some of the items and also tried to sell rolls of copper tubing, was taken to court yesterday on charges of receiving stolen property and conspiracy. His bail was set at $10,000 cash.

Police detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety Central Office received a call on March 8, 2013, at 7:15am, about a burglary and theft case at Chong's Corp. in Gualo Rai.

Camacho said that two police officers learned that brand new rolls of copper tubing had been stolen.

Three days later, Camacho received an anonymous call that three men went to the Triple J Recycling Center in As Perdido to sell rolls of copper wires.

That same day, Camacho went to Triple J Recycling Center to view the surveillance camera's footage.

A shop employee disclosed that three men came to sell some rolls of copper tubing but since they didn't have any identification cards with them, the shop did not buy the item.

Camacho said his review of the footage showed that on March 8 at 12:23pm, Ayuyu arrived at the shop with Sablan and a Chinese man on an old blue pickup truck. The group unloaded several rolls of copper tubing from the back of the truck onto a weighing scale.

According to the cashier, the rolls of copper tubing weigh about 82 kilos.

Ayuyu, Sablan, and the Chinese man (not Hong) again loaded the rolls of cooper tubing on the truck and left.

On March 12, Camacho went to Chang Hong Air-Conditiong Corp. in Koblerville to follow up on the Chong's Corp. burglary.

The detective said an employee of Chang Hong revealed that a Chinese man had asked them if they want to buy some copper tubing.

Camacho said that during his interview, Sablan cooperated and claimed it was Ayuyu's plan to burglarize Chong Corp.

Sablan allegedly related that he and Ayuyu burglarized Chong's Corp. on March 7 around midnight and stole several rolls of copper tubing and other items.

Sablan said after Chong's Corp., they went straight to a former Internet café just south of NMC in Fina Sisu. Ayuyu entered the building and moments later, he came out and unloaded two jackhammers and toolboxes from the truck and brought them inside the building.

A few minutes later, Ayuyu came out and got into the truck and allegedly showed Sablan $100 and "ice" worth $100 in a clear ziplock bag.

Camacho said that, on March 13, he went to the former Internet shop and saw the old blue Toyota pickup truck that was used to bring the cooper tubing to Triple J Recycling Center, parked at the back of the building.

Hong admitted owning the blue truck.

The detective said a witness identified Hong as the one tried to sell rolls of cooper tubing to Chang Hong Air-Conditioning.

The report did not mention whether the copper tubings were recovered. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Inos swears in DPW secretary

At the start of his meeting with Cabinet members yesterday morning, Gov. Eloy S. Inos administered the oath of office for Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan.

Sablan's confirmation came days after the Senate confirmed his appointment. It also came a little over a year since former governor Benigno R. Fitial removed Sablan from his post as DPW secretary. Inos re-appointed Sablan to his old post.

"The governor's message is for DPW to expedite the projects, provided we're in compliance with laws and regulations. That's always been the priority. But when things come up like procurement protests, we have to entertain them and address them before any project could start," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that this being Sablan's second appointment as DPW secretary, "Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider are highly confident that he will serve the department well."

"With limited resources, Sablan, like all other Cabinet members, are expected to make sound decisions to ensure that critical public services do not get disrupted. Gov. Inos also expects the new secretary to ensure that much needed projects get moving while, at the same time, ensuring that all required procedures are observed and complied with," Demapan added.

Some lawmakers, led by House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), are now drafting legislation to tighten laws on procurement protests, to deter any unnecessary delays in project implementation.

As of yesterday, some $6 million worth of federally-funded DPW projects remain under protest. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CUC waterline project on Navy Hill underway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents and businesses on Navy Hill will soon see an improvement in their water supply, with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. set to start a pressure improvement and waterline project in the area.

CUC recently awarded a $588,388 contract to GPPC Inc. for the project, which includes installing some 5,000 feet of distribution pipes along Isla, Gloria, and Diboto drives; cutting and capping all existing lines; and installing new water pipes and reconnecting all existing pipes to the new distribution main.

The project also includes installing new pressure reducing valves along Isla Drive to control excessive pressure and rehabilitation of the existing valves along Navy Hill Road and Freedom Drive. The existing booster pump station will also be replaced with a new system to provide residences on Kotdura Ln and Fitme Ln with constant pressure. This project also includes replacing all existing service pipes along the Lower Navy Hill area.

CUC, in a statement yesterday, said its contractor will be coordinating with homeowners for the reconnection of their water meters. It is CUC's goal to install or relocate all water meters along property boundaries. To expedite the reconnection process, CUC is urging residents in the area to help the contractor locate their existing service laterals.

"With the completion of these new distribution lines and installation of new [pressure reducing valves], residents in these areas will have improved water pressure and water quality. Old steel pipes (above ground), which are a constant source of leaks, will be abandoned…reducing the risk of possible contamination of the system," the CUC statement adds.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-003

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Scattered Properties in Saipan, Tinian and Rota

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2013, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in the Garapan, Saipan, on **Monday, April 22, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-003**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, May 3, 2013.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later **Friday, May 3, 2013**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, May 10, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, May 13, 2013.** However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, May 3, 2013.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301 (which also includes an inspection of equipment and its manpower).

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-004

This ad is paid with NSP Funds by NMHC

Installation of Perimeter Chain Link Fence and Accordion Typhoon Shutters for Three (3) NSP Properties

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide Installation of Perimeter Chain Link Fence and Accordion Typhoon Shutters for Three (3) NSP Properties, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2013, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in the Garapan, Saipan, on **Monday, April 22, 2013, at 11:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the three (3) NSP properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-004**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, May 3, 2013.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later **Friday, May 3, 2013,** and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, May 10, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **11:00 a.m., local time, Monday, May 13, 2013.** However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:30 p.m., local time on Friday, May 3, 2013.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: NMHC IFB 2013-004". Surety companies must hold a Certified of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for the completion of this project is forty-five (45) days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars ($125.00) per calendar day.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

TSL Foundation donates hotel stays for FTAF delegates

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executives have their photo taken with the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee members after presenting their donation of $3,000 in free hotel stays to accommodate off-island delegates from Kiribati, Chuuk, and Guam. From left to right, Logistics and Enforcement Committee chair Darrell Moteisou, Arts Council board member Glorina Teuira, overall committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan, council executive director Angel S. Hocog, and Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Off-island delegates for the upcoming 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival will now have access to free hotel stays through the sponsorship of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The charitable arm of the Tan Holdings group of companies has donated hotel accommodation to festival participants from Kiribati, Chuuk, and Guam.

The donation amounts to $3,000, making Tan Siu Lin Foundation a "Micronesia" sponsor of the signature annual event of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. This level of sponsorship is given to companies or organizations that provide monetary or in-kind contributions worth between $2,001 and $4,999.

Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan made the sponsorship official during a ceremony held at the former's office last Thursday.

David Sablan said the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is honored to partner with the council and the festival organizing committee by showing hospitality to visiting delegates who will make this year's celebration extra special.

"We are very happy to help the festival organizers because we believe this is a good community service," he said. "The Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is very important not only for the people of Saipan but also for the enhancement of the island as a tourist destination."

David Sablan noted that the festival draws attention to the season when flame trees on Saipan begin to bloom, splashing the island with its vibrant, fiery color and enhancing its appeal for sightseeing.

"We should preserve our culture and history so we can continue to enjoy and celebrate the beauty of the island," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Maggie Sablan, who worked for the council for nine years, said she is very pleased to see that programs like the annual outdoor arts festival remain very much alive and even continue to grow.

"The Flame Tree Arts Festival solidifies our cultures and traditions in the Commonwealth, passing it on for generations to come," she added.

In attendance during Thursday's presentation were Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, board member Glorina Teuira, overall festival committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, and Logistics and Enforcement Committee chair Darrell Moteisou.

"Through its annual sponsorships, Tan Siu Lin Foundation helps strengthen efforts to promote, preserve, and perpetuate our proud cultural heritage in the Northern Marianas and the region," said Yobei.

He said delegates from Tinian and Rota will have to be accommodated by the council.

Yobei invites the public to join in the celebration of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe. For more information, visit the council on Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83.

Khabarovsk flights to Saipan begin

A second city in Russia has begun charter flights to Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, another sign of growing demand for this western Pacific beach resort destination.

Charter flight company Aviacharter DV launched weekly direct flights from Khabarovsk, Russia on March 31, 2013, a few short months after beginning direct flights from Vladivostok in far east Russia.

"Russian visitors are an important segment of our tourism market in the Northern Marianas, and we warmly welcome the new charter flights launched by Aviacharter DV," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Russians love the natural beauty and clean, peaceful environment of our islands, and they stay longer, spend more, and experience more of island life than visitors from most other countries."

So far this fiscal year, Russian visitor arrivals are up 59 percent to 3,898 visitors compared to the same period last year. The flights from Khabarovsk will provide another 144 available air seats weekly.

A number of Russian media reps and travel agents arrived on the inaugural flight and conducted a familiarization tour of the destination earlier this month. Representatives of regional daily newspaper *Tihookeanskaya Zvezda*, regional news agency AmurPress, TV channel Ren-TV, and city-portal www.MoiGorod.Ru spent the week conducting inspections of island hotels and taking in numerous tourist attractions.

Activities included visiting Managaha, a submarine tour, the Las Vegas-style SandCastle cocktail show, DFS Galleria, buggy riding with Marianas Trekking, sunset dinner cruise, Mandi Asian spa, dinner at Shenanigan's, Saipan World Resort water park, a Chamolinian dinner show, and apartment and condo inspections. ***(MVA)***

Insurance beneficiary of man who drowned in '11 couldn't be found

» PH lawyer files claim for 3 children; shows marriage contract with other woman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An insurance company has disclosed that it could not locate the listed spouse and insurance beneficiary of a trade specialist of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services who reportedly drowned on Rota in 2011.

After failing to find Monica H. Semilla, FirstNet Insurance Company on Friday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the company to publish its complaint in newspapers in the CNMI and Guam.

FirstNet counsel Richard W. Pierce wants the court to give Monica Semilla six weeks to respond to the lawsuit after the publications.

FirstNet insured the life of Alberto S. Semilla under a group life policy with the government of the CNMI. The policy of insurance provided basic coverage on Alberto S. Semilla's life in the amount of $40,000.

FirstNet recently filed a lawsuit in federal court to discharge it from any obligation to Alberto S. Semilla's Philippine-based children: Albert, Aljerom, and Angelica Semilla.

Teresita Montana, a self-described attorney-in-fact for the three children, filed a claim on the proceeds of the insurance policy on behalf of the children.

FirstNet, however, denied the claim of Montana because the three children were not the named beneficiaries of Alberto S. Semilla's insurance policy.

In his declaration filed Friday in court, Pierce said the FirstNet's adjustor's file for the death of Alberto S. Semilla contains no information about the whereabouts of Monica Semilla except community reports that she has moved to Guam with a partner.

Pierce said he contacted Rota Health Center by telephone and was informed by a person that Monica Semilla had left Rota for Guam four years ago.

Pierce said he searched on Facebook and MySpace and neither had a reference to Monica Semilla, except for a young girl in a province of Marinduque, Philippines, and an individual in Spain.

The lawyer said he sent an email to Montana, as the attorney for the three children, but has not received a response.

Equitable Adjusting & Service Co. claims manager Daniel M. Manuel, stated that Alberto S. Semilla drowned on April 28, 2011, while fishing off Rota where he lived.

Manuel said that Monica Semilla, the listed spouse and beneficiary, did not file an insurance claim with Equitable Adjusting upon Alberto S. Semilla's death.

Manuel said that Monica Semilla has never contacted Equitable Adjusting or FirstNet about the death of her husband.

The claims manager disclosed that, in July 2011, Montana, believed to be a lawyer in the Philippines, contacted FirstNet seeking payment of the death benefit for Alberto S. Semilla's three children.

Manuel said that Montana provided FirstNet with a marriage contract between Alberto S. Semilla and Angelina Tayong.

Manuel said the contract appears to show that Semilla and Tayong were married in 1985.

The claims manager said Equitable Adjusting informed Montana in writing that the children were not the beneficiaries under the insurance policy.

Manuel said they gathered that Monica Semilla no longer lived on Rota and was not living with Alberto S. Semilla at the time of his death.

Manuel said that under the policy, the benefits are paid to the named beneficiary but if that is not effective, the payment is made to the estate of the deceased.

MANGO to host board training for NGOs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc. or MANGO is offering a series of "interactive and integrative" local capacity building training sessions for board members of non-profit organizations in the islands.

Presented in partnership with the Office of Minority Health Resource Center, the training series will provide expert instruction with practical exercises that would take participants through a "step by step" process of developing non-profit boards.

The training will be held at the Pacific Islands Club, covering Board Development on April 22, Resource Development on April 23 and 24, and Fiscal Management on April 25.

The Board Development session will review and define roles and responsibilities of the board of directors, understand how to recruit and retain board members, governance, conflict of interest, risk management, policy and monitoring functions of the board, board duties, how to articulate and explain the relationship between the board and staff, and some of the critical mistakes that boards make.

Through the Resource Development session, participants will learn how resources support an organization by using and expanding their financial and human resources to attract more, assess the fiscal risk factor of one's agency, autonomy and diversity funding, current and future client focus services, program sustainability, and growth and expansion.

Financial Management training will discuss the importance of accountability within an agency, internal control factors and responsibilities, chart of accounts, direct and indirect costs, allowable and disallowable cost, and the 501©3 process.

MANGO is the umbrella organization for all NMI-based NGOs and non-profit organizations. It is an associate member of the regional Pacific Coalition, chartered and licensed by the CNMI Corporate Registrar in December 2010.

Founding members of MANGO include president Maria C. Pangelinan, Polly Omechelang, Maisie B. Tenorio, Frances M. Sablan, Jesse J. Torres, Al Cabael, Joann Aquino, Lydia D. Igitol, John DLR Gonzales, Rhea Chong, George Cruz, and Rose Castro.

Gonzales said each non-profit organization is given up to two slots to allow their board members to take part in the training series. Deadline for registration is on Wednesday, April 17.

He also encouraged other non-profit organizations to become a member of MANGO.

Interested individuals are asked to register for the training or become a MANGO member by emailing the name of their organization and representatives to maria_p@marianashealth.com and mangononprofits@gmail.com to receive the official registration form.

For more information, call 285-6382.

CHCC board wants hospital's budget plan revised

»Babauta accused of submitting 'inaccurate, inconsistent, unrealistic' number

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board voted Friday to have the agency's budget proposal revised, describing the budget figure submitted by CEO Juan N. Babauta as "inaccurate and inconsistent."

COO and acting chief financial officer Esther Muña was instructed to ask Gov. Eloy S. Inos for a 15-day extension to ensure that the corporation will come up with realistic and workable numbers for the next fiscal year.

Board chair Joaquin Torres and vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz said the revised budget must incorporate key positions recommended by the U.S. Commissioned Corps in ensuring that the hospital is in compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This came about after the items were found excluded under the CEO's budget proposal earlier submitted to the governor.

Muña said that posts such as lab manager, CMMS compliance officer, facilities manager, and revenue cycle manager were not incorporated in the local budget submission because the corporation had applied for federal grants with the Office of Insular Affairs for this purpose.

The first three positions amount to $500,000, while the revenue cycle manager will cost $140,000.

Since there is no assurance that the corporation will get these grants, the board ordered these items' inclusion in the revised proposal.

According to Torres, Babauta's $10.2-million budget request is not realistic, considering the government's limited resources.

He reminded that the Legislature, despite appeals for a higher budget, allotted only $5 million for the corporation in fiscal year 2012 and just $1.9 million this fiscal year 2013.

"Our CEO likes to dream," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Based on Babauta's proposed budget that he submitted to Inos on April 1, the corporation needs $35.9 million to cover for personnel and operations for the next 12 months. Of this amount, $10.2 million is being sought from the local government while the rest will be covered by the hospital's revenue and collections. Based on the CEO's projections, net patient revenues in fiscal year 2014 are expected to reach $34.6 million.

Dela Cruz on Friday questioned the figures, saying the numbers and data are incorrect.

Muña was later asked by board members on the hospital's actual collections versus the projections given by Babauta. Muna disclosed that actual collection is only about $1.7 million each month (composed of $900,000 in upfront collection and $800,000 from Medicare reimbursement) after deducting the CPE, or certified public expenditure, totaling $848,000.

If actual collection is used, Dela Cruz said the corporation only expects to earn about $20.4 million in fiscal year 2014—way below the CEO's projection of $34 million.

Board member Anthony Raho, a former pharmacist at the Commonwealth Health Center, said that unit managers should be information about their unit's budget that they could work on. Raho criticized the lack of entries on the budget column for several hospital units such as for the pharmacy and described the budget planning as a big joke for many managers whose units are expected to perform at their best.

CAREER WEEK NMC

Dr. James Hofschneider from the Commonwealth Health Center speaks to students at the Northern Marianas College about his experiences as a medical professional. The discussion was part of NMC's Career Week activities organized by the NMC Career Center to help students and members of the community gain employment. The session is one of several planned for Career Week at NMC. For a complete schedule of workshops, visit www.nmcnet.edu. The activities culminate in a Career Fair on April 18 where local companies and organizations will be featuring various job opportunities.

IN FILING MOTIONS IN LAND COMPENSATION CLAIM

AG, AAG stand ready to accept any sanctions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and assistant attorney general Charles Brasington have stated that they stand ready and willing to accept any sanctions handed down by the CNMI Supreme Court for making a material misrepresentation in filing two similar motions in the high court and lower court in connection with a land compensation claim.

In their response to the high court's order to show cause, San Nicolas and Brasington said they recognize that the misstatement and misrepresentation were egregious and unacceptable.

"Accordingly, the undersigned counsels sincerely and humbly apologize for their material misrepresentation and the harm that this material misrepresentation caused the court," San Nicolas and Brasington said.

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona last month ordered San Nicolas and Brasington to explain why they should not be sanctioned for misleading the court by filing the two similar motions in the high court and lower court in connection with Luis B. Quitigua's land compensation claim.

According to court records, in 2005 the Superior Court awarded Quitugua $77,137 plus interest for her land compensation claim. In November 2012, the government paid Quitugua $10,000.

On March 1, 2013, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman granted Quitugua's request for a writ of execution and ordered three banks to release and deliver to Quitugua's lawyer any funds they are holding that belong to the government.

On March 4, 2013 at 3:58pm, the government, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed an emergency motion for stay, requesting the Supreme Court to stay or suspend the writ of execution.

The OAG's motion failed to disclose that the government also filed a similar motion in the Superior Court on March 2, 2013, two days earlier.

In his order to show cause, Manglona said the government's motion suggested that no motion had been filed in the Superior Court, stating that "the Commonwealth does not believe that there is adequate time to move the Superior Court to stay its own writ of execution."

Relying on the government's certification, Manglona said the Supreme Court issued a stay of proceedings in the afternoon of March 4, 2013. The high court later lifted the stay order after finding out that the Superior Court had already acted on the emergency motion filed by the government.

In OAG's response to Manglona's order, Brasington said when he drafted the certification section he was under the understanding that the OAG would not challenge the writ in Superior Court.

Brasington said the certification section was drafted in the evening of Friday, March 1, 2013, and the legal analysis section was drafted on Saturday, March 2, 2013.

On Saturday, March 2, 2013, the OAG filed an application for stay in Superior Court along with a motion to shorten time.

San Nicolas and Brasington said this decision was made primarily because the OAG did not know how to file the emergency motion in the Supreme Court over the weekend, but was readily familiar with how to make an electronic filing with the Superior Court.

"It was the understanding of the OAG that counsel for Ms. Quitugua had already attempted to enforce the writ, and that the writ, as written, allowed for all monies to be transferred from all Commonwealth bank accounts to the trust account of opposing counsel," they said.

On Monday, March 4, 2013, Brasington filed the emergency motion in the Supreme Court.

Brasington said he failed to review the certification section of the emergency motion. He said it was this failure that resulted in the material misrepresentation that was made to the high court.

Brasington said he accepts full and complete responsibility for his actions. He said he realizes the gravity of his error, its egregious and unacceptable nature, how this error wasted scarce judicial resources, and how this error interrupted the court's business.

In response to this series of events, San Nicolas said the OAG has instituted a mandatory policy of peer review.

San Nicolas said this policy requires that all documents to be filed in any court must first be peer-reviewed before submission to ensure that the legal reasoning is sound and well supported, that all statements and declarations accompanying the proposed filing are true and correct, and that the proposed filing complies with the rules of court.

"This policy will help ensure that the misrepresentation that occurred in this matter will not occur again in the future," the AG said.

GSA

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MCS introduces online application tool

In an effort to offer comfort to both enrollees and school personnel during the admission process, Mount Carmel School will launch this week an online application tool for school year 2013-2014.

Linked to the school's website, www.mtcarmel-edu.net, the online tool allows parents, guardians, and their families to apply for admission for their children for the upcoming school year.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said the initiative is a first, not only for the school but in the Commonwealth as well. "We are very excited about this and the response from parents has been very positive," he said.

With the new process, school staff will no longer have to manually enter data into the school's databases, which historically often required double data entry that sometimes resulted in errors. The school also pointed to the online application as a "green" tool that will reduce the school's reliance on paper.

The online admissions tool has users submit all of the information that would normally be included in the application, such as student information, information about the student's family, emergency contact information, and information about who will be responsible for financial obligations at the school.

While paper applications are still available, to encourage parents to use the online application tool, the school is waiving the $50 application fee for applications completed online.

Given the need for privacy and security online, Deleon Guerrero assured the school community about the online tool.

"We have taken diligent steps to ensure the privacy and security of information entered online. In fact, as an extra precaution, we have set up a protocol in which school personnel directly contact parents and guardians to verify and authenticate, in person, the information entered," he said. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

FOR 32ND ANNUAL FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL

Community urged to welcome off-island delegations

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, through the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee, encourages the community to join the committee in welcoming off-island delegations that will take part in this week's event.

Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said it is a great honor for the CNMI to host distinguished artists and performers from Kiribati, Chuuk, and Guam to share their distinctive indigenous cultures and traditions, enabling the public to have a profound understanding of other island communities in the region. The committee also anticipates welcoming a festival delegation from the island of Rota.

"Through the years, the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival has become a celebration of the artistry and ingenuity not only of our local artists but also talents from other island nations," says Hocog. "The strong relations that the Arts Council has nurtured with neighboring islands in the Pacific will enable the region to collectively promote, preserve, and perpetuate our valuable heritage."

Hocog says the visiting delegations were willing to participate in the event by paying for their own airfare. "In return, we will demonstrate to our festival guests our Hafa Adai spirit and island hospitality in a modest reception to be attended by our very own dignitaries," he adds.

Moreover, each of the off-island participants will receive a DCCA department gift bag containing giveaways and promotional items contributed by partner agencies, including the Division of Youth Services, and corporate sponsors such as IT&E.

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture invites the community to "Be A Part" of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 19 to 21 at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe. For more information, visit the council in Capital Hill next to the post office or call 322-9982 or 83. ***(PR)***

NEWEST BOARD MEMBER MONETH G. DEPOSA

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, left, swears in newly appointed non-public school representative Galvin Deleon Guerrero during Thursday's regular meeting of the board.

Medical Billing and Coding trainees get certified

In their quest to seek a career field, Workforce Investment Agency participants Tara I. Pangelinan, Conchita M. Palacios, Renaesha C. Cepeda, Sharlene R. Mirzoian, and Marissa E. Quichocho have all found their calling in becoming certified in the field of Medical Billing and Coding. They successfully completed an in-class training program made possible by the Department of the Interior's Economic and Labor Enhancement Grant by passing the required exam to become certified.

Their hard work has paid off as they are now bona fide employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. after also completing WIA's subsidized work experience program.

A career in medical billing and coding brings numerous employment opportunities in demand-driven health care businesses and professions. WIA, under the Office of the Governor, is especially proud of these participants' most recent achievements. Each participant's testimonial can be read at http://www.wia.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Workforce Investment Agency participants have all found their calling in becoming certified in the field of Medical Billing and Coding.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 16, 2004

Govt to sign MOU with China tourism office

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is not signing an Approved Destination Status agreement yet with China during his trip to the country this weekend. Babauta, however, said that he hopes to sign a memorandum of understanding with China's National Tourism Administration in Beijing today. "We are working toward an ADS. What we are doing now is entering into an MOU," Babauta said yesterday. Babauta was set to leave for Beijing via Seoul early this morning at three o'clock. He is said to be accompanied only by Attorney General Pamela Brown.

'Stateless' list heads to Congress in May

The stateless children issue will take its next step in May when Gov. Juan N. Babauta meets with U.S. Rep. Dan Burton in Washington D.C. to present the complete list of stateless individuals in the Commonwealth. Legal counsel Steve Newman, who is handling the registration of stateless individuals in the CNMI, disclosed yesterday that the Office of the Governor is still waiting for 90 more individuals who need to be included in the comprehensive list. "We don't want anyone to be left out. It happened before.and we don't want that to happen again," said Newman. The Office of the Governor has set April 22 as the deadline for the registration.

Apr. 16, 2005

SEDC focuses on Saipan garment industry

The Office of the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council dedicated a majority of their April 11 meeting at the Senate to a Saipan garment industry update. SEDC co-chair Marian Aldan-Pierce introduced council members to Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association executive director Richard A. Pierce, who delivered a PowerPoint analysis of industry economics, trends, and global developments affecting Saipan apparel factory operations and future prospects. SEDC co-chair Robert H. Jones reported on a recent trip to a Dong Guan, China, factory complex, where Jones, Pierce, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, SGMA chair James C. Lin, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Alex Sablan, and HANMI president Lynn Knight visited a China factory complex, where several factory owners and buyers illustrated China's overwhelming advantage in supply chain manufacturing.

MPLA commissioner given more authority

The Marianas Public Lands Authority board of directors has given the commissioner greater authority over signing all MPLA documents. The MPLA board of directors adopted earlier this week a resolution that delegates the commissioner to review and sign all MPLA documents, for accuracy and completeness, subject to the approval of the board chair. These documents cover all contracts, leases, assignments, and permits, among others. "Under the current practice, all [MPLA documents] are not reviewed and signed for accuracy and completeness by the commissioner before or after the documents are forwarded to the chairperson and legal counsel for signatures," a portion of the resolution read.

Apr. 16, 2006

'Salary cut to worsen economic condition'

The local economy's current situation would worsen if the CNMI government pursues its plan to cut its employees' salaries by 10 percent, warns Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Tom Glenn A. Quitugua. "It's a horrible proposal. You're crippling the purchasing power of your people. Can you imagine the plight of employees earning $10,000 a year?" asked Quitugua. He said that if the local population's purchasing power is diminished, it would result in economic stagnation, worsening the financial crisis that the government is already in. "If there's less money circulating, guess what impact it has on the businesses. Guess what it will do to the economy," said Quitugua.

Tinian's proposed ILS not approved by FAA

The instrument landing system that the Tinian local government has proposed for its airport was essentially rejected by the Federal Aviation Administration, said Commonwealth Ports Authority consultant Carlos H. Salas. Salas said the ILS that is being sold to Tinian by its contact company "is not the system that FAA currently supports." "Tinian airport has to get the equipment that FAA supports. [CPA] is going to pursue the one that FAA is supporting because when it's done, FAA will be maintaining it," said Salas in an interview last week.

BOE urges Congress to amend laws to stop drastic cuts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education urged Congress and the Obama administration to amend both the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the American Taxpayer Relief Act to mitigate drastic cuts to education that would affect students and communities.

In a resolution adopted during Thursday's board meeting, local education officials said the request aims to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 was amended by the American Taxpayers Relief Act, which includes provisions to impose more than $1.1 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts on almost all federal programs, including for what was ordered for March 1, 2013, and slated for implementation on March 27 this year.

These across-the-board budget cuts, also known as sequestration, will result in a $3.2 million cut in Title 1 funding for disadvantaged children in the CNMI; a $240,000 funding reduction for Public School System special education students; and a $92,000 funding cut for Head Start students.

Further, according to BOE members, these sequestration cuts—especially the Title I cut of 35 percent—is way more than the 5 percent mandated by sequestration and will result in a loss of extracurricular activities and teacher and staff layoffs.

Based on the resolution, sequestration will impact almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and more.

"The CNMI PSS, as well as other public schools throughout the nation, will be adversely impacted by the estimated $2 billion loss from just three programs alone—Title 1 grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start—that serve a combined 30.7 million children," according to the board, adding that federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than $835 million in fiscal year 2011 and state and local funding for education continue to be impacted by budget cuts and lower local tax revenues.

According to the BOE, states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts, as PSS has already implemented cuts commensurate to state and local budget conditions.

PSS is supposed to receive $28.9 million this fiscal year from various federal programs. It has two types of grants: formula grants and categorical grants.

Data from the system shows that the $28.9 million federal grants to public schools are composed of consolidated grant ($8.4 million); nutrition assistance grant ($10.2 million); Head Start ($1.8 million); special education ($4.8 million); and territories and freely associated education grant ($1 million).

At present, federal grants represent 48 percent of the total funding for public education in the CNMI, which is far high than the U.S. average of only 10 percent.

Taxpayers beat filing deadline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds rushed yesterday to the Division of Revenue and Taxation in Dandan to file their 2012 individual income tax returns to beat the April 15 deadline, but the waiting time is much shorter than in previous years.

Firefighter 1 Jay Salas, of Kagman, went to file his income tax returns yesterday afternoon but he missed one document and was asked to come back.

"I was so busy that's why I'm filing it on the last day," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. George Camacho (IR-Saipan), also among the last-minute filers, said, "It's better to file on the last minute than missing the deadline or not filing at all."

An accounting firm's tax preparer for 15 years said he made two trips to the Division of Revenue and Taxation yesterday to file some 30 tax returns in the morning and another 10 in the afternoon.

"Every year, clients would come to us shortly before the deadline and sometimes on the day of the deadline. Some of them were prepared long before the deadline but were only lacking the taxpayers' signatures," he said. The tax preparer said the average charge for tax preparation and filing is $25.

Others also visited the Division of Revenue and Taxation at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center to request extension for filing their tax returns by filing Form 4868.

But the Department of Finance said an extension of time to file is "not" an extension of time to pay. "You will owe interest on any past-due tax and you may be subject to a late-payment penalty if untimely paid," the department said.

Governor's Choice Award added to Bridge Capital art contest

»Organizer invites more schools to participate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, Bridge Capital LLC will give away the Governor's Choice Award in the 4th Annual CNMI Art Competition.

Rowena C. Relado, Bridge Capital administrative services manager, said yesterday that all competition entries will have the chance to vie for the award, whose winner will be chosen by Gov. Eloy S. Inos himself.

Relado said that Inos will join a panel of judges in evaluating this year's winners, including the recipient of the Governor's Choice Award.

"The governor will view the entries, without identification of the artists, at our office during the judging period on April 22 and 23," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The awardee will receive the $1,000 prize, increasing the competition's total prizes to $13,500—the biggest to be given away by the international investment banking company headquartered on Saipan.

All winners will be notified by text, call, or email by Bridge Capital so they can attend the awarding ceremony on April 24.

The CNMI Art Competition is an annual event that promotes the arts and supports local artists. This year's event features a new category, photography, in addition to two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art.

Relado said they have extended the deadline for submission of entries to Friday, April 19, since this year's award presentation will be concluded after the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, where the entries will be displayed.

"One other reason to extend the deadline is to accommodate more entries from our talented artists," she added.

Relado also encourages students from public and private schools in the CNMI to submit their entries for a chance to win in the K to 12th grade age category.

She noted that they received fewer entries among students this year.

"We are calling on our students to showcase their talents by joining our Annual Art Competition," said Relado.

For more information, contact Relado at 322-2222 or email rowena@bccnmi.com.

Contestants sought for NMC's Charter Day competitions

The Northern Marianas College is seeking individuals or groups who are interested in competing for the college's Charter Day competitions: Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands, and the Clash of the Crews dance competition.

The Marianas Idol competition showcases the CNMI's local singers while the Battle of the Bands allows local bands from different musical genres to compete. The Clash of the Crews dance competition will be a chance for dancers to show off their own unique styles.

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day is one of the islands' biggest celebrations of the year. "We'll be showcasing various programs, celebrating employee and student achievement, and of course, featuring great entertainment," said Charter Day Committee chair Queanna Sablan.

Those interested in competing in any of the competition can pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J, or can download application forms or rules at www.nmcnet.edu. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

Applications for the competitions are due Thursday, April 18 by 4pm. Contestants will be contacted no later than April 19 to schedule the dates and times for auditions. The auditions will be scheduled between April 22 to the 26 and will be held in the NMC Student Center in Building J at the college's As Terlaje campus.

For the Battle of the Bands, groups are required to bring their own equipment.

This year's Charter Day will take place on May 3, 2013 from 3pm to 10pm at NMC As Terlaje campus.

For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email queannas@nmcnet.edu. Additional information about NMC Charter Day is also available online at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Proceeds from Mestisu Palooza presented to MMAC committee

CLARISSA V. DAVID

L.J. Castro, center, hands the $428 raised during the Mestisu Palooza Valentine event to 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee overall chair Manny Borja during a brief ceremony at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office yesterday. In photo are, from left to right, survivors committee chair Nola Hix, public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion, and CCA administrative assistant Patricia Kaipat.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee received yesterday the proceeds from the Mestisu Palooza Valentine event in February.

Event organizer L.J. "The Finasisu Mestisu" Castro presented the $428 check to overall committee chair Manny Borja, public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion, survivors committee chair Nola Hix, and Commonwealth Cancer Association administrative assistant Patricia Kaipat in a brief ceremony at the CCA office on Middle Road.

Castro said the Mestisu Palooza initiative was launched last year as an opportunity to raise money for causes that benefit the community.

Castro has volunteered his services over the years by hosting and emceeing community events. He is also chair of the 2013 MMAC entertainment committee.

"I've done a lot of that for many causes and it's another way for me to give back to my community," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Castro emphasized the need to support MMAC, the signature annual fundraising event of the CCA, a non-profit organization that ensures all funds raised are spent entirely in the CNMI on cancer awareness programs, cancer patient support services, and other cancer-related activities.

"Everybody in the community has a family member who is battling, has beaten, or succumbed to cancer, so we all need to come out and support the cause," he said.

The donated amount, said Castro, was collected from the fun and successful Valentine event held last Feb. 8 at GIG Discotheque, which also served as the main sponsor.

The event was made possible with the support of other contributors: Marpac, IT&E, Salbahe Brand, Trench Tech, Borderline, Pacific Islands Club, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonald's, Seahorse Marine, Island Florals, Bossano Bar, Hollywood Theaters, and Power 99.

"Even when you have a good time, you can also contribute to a good cause," said Castro.

MMAC's Borja said the donation is a great help in their fundraising efforts. He commended Castro and his group for coming together to help out.

"We hope to see more events and activities that support the cause in the coming years," added Borja.

He said a total of 17 teams are working hard to raise the pot of money to support CCA activities through their own events as well as selling luminaries and raffle tickets, which are both available at CCA as well.

This year's MMAC is slated for April 26 to 27 at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

For more information, visit www.ccamarianas.org or call 682-0050.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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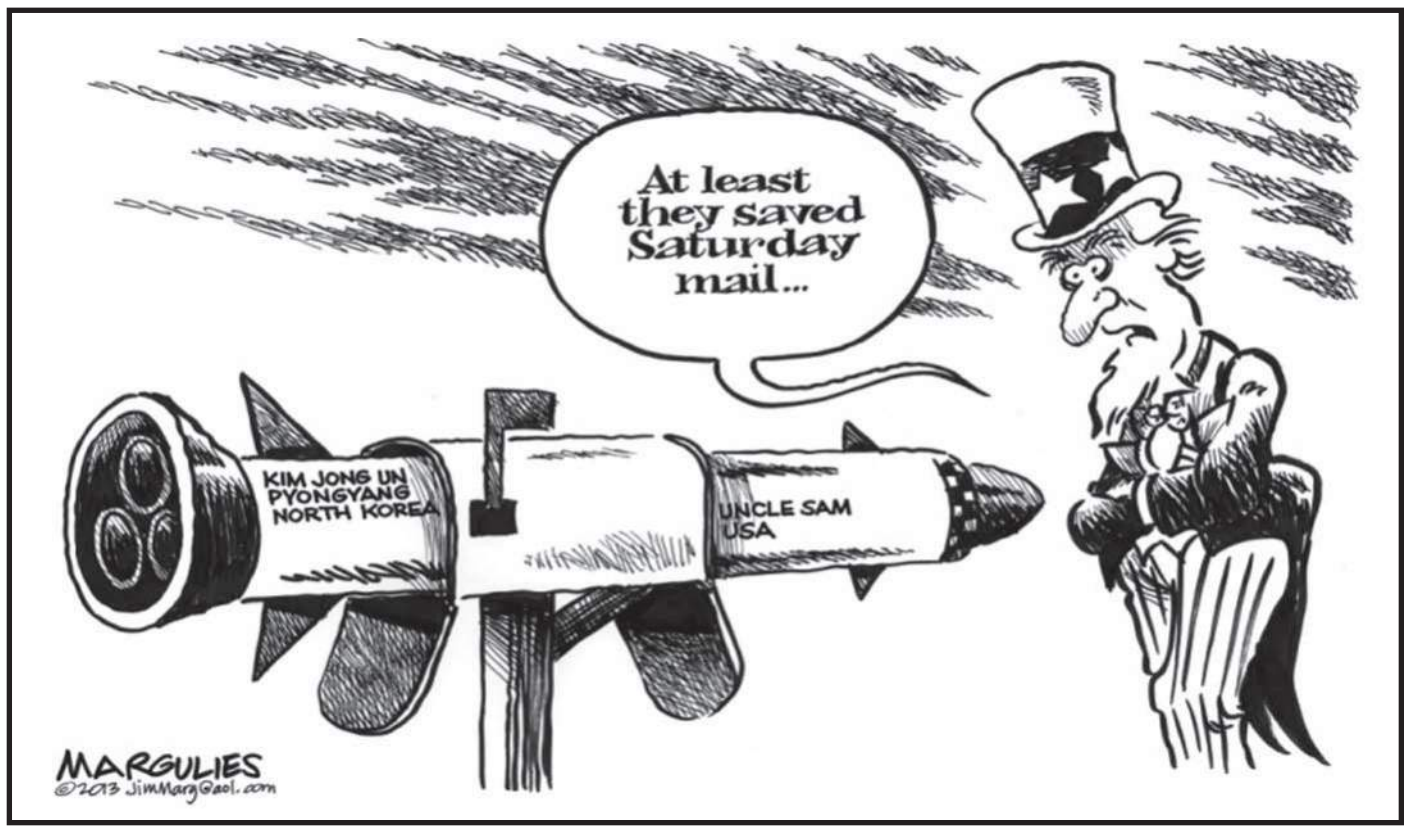

EDITORIAL

Immigration reform has traction

All the elements are coming together in Washington to give immigration reform its first serious legislative chance in decades.

The enlightened self-interest of politicians chastened by election demographics showing Hispanics tending to vote more for Democrats, and broad agreements between business and labor groups have sufficiently merged to make immigration reforms a possibility.

The final package is still a work in progress, though a bipartisan proposal is expected soon.

America has not seriously revisited the topic since a 1986 amnesty for 3 million people in the country without permission. That number now tops 11 million men, women and children.

Republican politicians were sobered by the Latino vote for candidate Obama and President Obama. GOP rhetoric used for years did not fit the times.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found common ground for a new guest worker program for nonagricultural workers. A "W" visa for lesser skilled workers would cover no fewer than 20,000 people in hard economic times, and up to 200,000 in good times.

No more than 15,000 would be admitted annually for construction work under the bartered guidelines. Wages and the number of visas for farm workers are unresolved.

A new Bureau of Immigration and Labor Market Research would track all the data.

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Chavez gone but candidates ensure he's not forgotten

For the first time since 1998, Hugo Chavez isn't on Venezuela's presidential ballot. Last time we checked, he was dead.

So what's his face doing on all those campaign posters? Why do so many political rallies begin with a recording of Chavez singing the national anthem? What's with the television ad in which Chavez's smiling visage winks from the heavens?

It's all designed to drum up votes for Chavez's hand-picked successor, interim President Whatsisname.

Nicolas Maduro kicked off his campaign last month from Chavez's childhood home. He refers to himself as Chavez's "son" and to the party faithful as "apostles." He speaks reverently of Chavez, calling him a "redeemer" and even suggesting he now sits alongside Christ.

Maduro recently told a story of a little bird that flew overhead as he prayed shortly after the president's death. "I felt his spirit, like a blessing," he said, pausing to make birdlike tweeting and flapping noises. "It said, 'The battle starts today, onward to victory, you have my blessing.'"

Maduro, who was Chavez's foreign minister for six years before becoming vice president last year, wants Venezuelans to remember that he was anointed by the ailing president. What

See CHAVEZ on Next Page

How to become a genius (almost)

By RUSS MASON, M.S.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

For the better part of a decade, Russ Mason wrote for a medical journal, Alternative & Complementary Therapies. *His principal assignment was to interview a physician or other health care practitioner about new and important treatments, as well as diet and nutrition. Prior to that, he worked at NBC in New York for 16 years, often as a writer for their television programs.*

I think everyone has fantasized about being a genius, but it may seem impossible to those who consider themselves ordinary people.

The mistaken belief is that to be a genius, you have to be smart. You have to know all of the states and their capitals, world events, and the price of tea in China. In truth, however, becoming a genius has nothing to do with any of that.

I am not talking about savants, or child prodigies, or people who are born with extraordinary abilities to play the piano or remember numbers. They are anomalies; wonderful and endlessly fascinating but still anomalies. They are not geniuses, though they may be labeled as such.

Geniuses are consciously able to use their minds better than the average person. They have learned to expand their intuitive and perceptual abilities, and this results in new insights and understandings about life, people, and how things work.

To become intuitive means that you can perceive things outside of the boundaries of the five physical senses (hearing, sight, taste, touch, smell). Sometimes it's a hunch, a gut feeling, or just a sense that something is about to happen or has already happened.

Intuition is a form of perception that is usually not developed in an ordinary individual. Yes, we all have those interesting moments when the phone rings and we know who it is before we say hello.

Becoming a genius is actually about expanding your powers of intuitive perception and tapping into the unused 90 percent of your brain. Although it is possible to do, it first requires an intention on your part and then some dedication to actually follow through and do it.

Why would anyone do this? What are the benefits of developing one's intuition?

When one cultivates the ability to see and feel things intuitively, a few things happen. First, you stop misplacing things: you can "see" where they are. Second, you get clear vibes from people and these sometimes suggest caution. This is especially true with meeting a stranger. If they are sick, or have a medical condition, you will sense it. If they want something from you, you will sense that too. You will be able to discern phony friends from real ones. It does not involve thinking; it is about sensing and feeling.

You already do this

If you have ever walked into a room where people had been arguing, you can sense it. If someone is looking at you in a certain way, you can sense that too. Women, especially, know when a guy is "checking them out," even from a distance. American pilots, during WWII, had the seatbacks extended behind their heads because they could feel the Japanese pilots looking at the backs of their necks. So it's really about extending your perceptive powers of intuition and using them to your advantage.

One of the most brilliant geniuses of all time, Albert Einstein, said, "The intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift."

How to increase your intuitive ability

Because intuition is about perception and sensing ability, you will move into a mental state that will accommodate this, and you will learn that you are "more than your physical body."

In 1995, I bought a 12-tape set, The Silva Method. It was based on the research and practical applications of José Silva, of Laredo, Texas.

All I had to do was to lie down and listen to the tapes. Little by little, they brought me into an alpha brainstate. I was deeply relaxed, but still alert.

José's daughter, Laura, verbally guided me through a "Conditioning Cycle," which was both relaxing and affirming ("Take a deep breath, and, as you exhale, go deeper.") It is a bit like hypnosis, but you can always get up and walk around—you are not surrendering any personal power.

I used the tapes for many years, usually preferring to listen to José's tape of instruction. He had a deep, comforting voice. The tapes offer many suggestions on problem solving, achieving your goals, and even influencing others from a distance.

The Silva Method is taught (usually in seminars) in over 100 countries around the world, and has a variety of tape and CD sets for home use. You can find more information on the Internet, as well as YouTube videos. Look for "The Silva Method."

My next step

In 2004 I was writing for a medical journal, and one of the doctors I interviewed was Brian Dailey, M.D. Dr. Dailey used a patented audio technology, Hemi-Sync®, in order to help his patients calm down after a procedure. These were CDs played through headphones, which the patient wore as he lay in recovery. (Google: "The Sound Medicine of Brian Dailey" for a free pdf copy of the interview).

In the course of preparing the article, I was given several Hemi-Sync CDs, and these can—similar to the Silva recordings—not only get you into a relaxed mental state, but can expand your perceptive/intuitive abilities.

While listening to one of the Hemi-Sync recordings ("Vibe Flow") I went progressively deeper and became more relaxed. At one point, I distinctly heard the voices of truck drivers who used to work for my grandfather. Another time I heard children singing, though I didn't recognize the song or who they were.

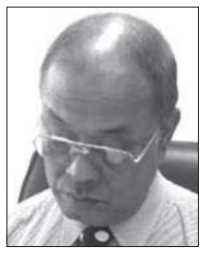
The Hemi-Sync technology was developed by two physicists, while they were working with Robert Monroe. Monroe had written a fascinating book, *Journeys out of the Body*, and he wanted to create an audio technology that would help people enter an out-of-

See GENIUS on Next Page

Futturon Kutturan Natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



I futturon kuttaran famaguonta uma'udai gi kualidat edukasion niha. Kuttura-mu gaige ennau na sentimentu gi halom korason-mu. Ni manu 'nai un' gaige todu tiempu inakompapaña hau ni haf" na kuttura yan tradision 'nai malulog hau.

Mas u klaru i para u fana' famaguonta 'nai mas megai man-eskuela kolehu yan unibersidat pa'gu na siglu. Mas antau diniskuten maseha haf" asuntun niha piot gi makonduktan gobietnamentu 'sino haf" maguiguife gi hilu' i presente na kontrata yan Estados Unidos de Amerika.

Mauleg yan mandidog na asuntu para u fana'. Siha lokue' dispues u fañaunau gi mapipet kinalamten siha pot para u pega tautau-ta gi yanu yan prosperu na plaset. Debi u mauleg appottunidat kinalamten gi katkuet manera para u safu hinanau famaguonta. Gaige este na tolai gi edukasion niha. Obligasion-ta i para tana' fitme ennau na tolai kosake siña makrusa dibuenamente ni famaguonta.

Espehos edukasion natibu

Hu akanteha kinalamten estau politika giya Guam espesifikamente, haf" dinisehan niha gi este na kuestion. Ti namatman na megai ti mumalagu'e i presente na areglu. Metgot lokue' sentimenton parehu na kontrata taiguihe Federated States of Micronesia.

Yangin un' guadog dibuenamente este na sentimento, gaige gi didog gi fondun korason niha na mangai direchu siha kumu tautau tanu' mas fitme na areglu ke haf" guaha gi lamasa. Estague' 'nai a'anog benefisiun edukasion gi megai na mañeluta giya Guam. Man-libre dumeskute dignun niha kumu petmanente na pipulan islan niha.

I asuntu siha ni mafafana' esta ti magpu' ha' gi inatuñgu' eskaleran inosiente. Matuñgu' klaru haf" malagu' niha ginen Estados Unido de Amerika.

Priniponen militat

Matutuhon presentasion inestudian haf" para u fan inaffekta yangin uma-establese fasilidat militat entalu' Tinian, Saipan yan Pagan.

Anog na i militat ha nesessita iya Pagan para aktibidat sendalon marinu. Iya Pagan ti sumasaunau gi tanu' Marianas ni ma-atkikila ni militat. Kumeke ilegña este na siempre u guaha negosiu pot planon iya Pagan.

Sumaunau fondu pot atkilon priniponen usun iya Pagan. Akuantu mohon este na fondu? Manu sessu 'nai para uma-usa yangin ma-apase iya Marianas?

Lokue', gaige gi kontratan i inakonfotman i Covenant na debi i Kongresson iya America de u apprueba mas atkilon tanu yan fondu para este na propositu. Estague' na puntu mauleg u ma-estudiaye gi hilu' finaposta yan militat pot tanu' iya Tinian.

Debi u guaha satton na edukasion publiku gi este na asuntu.

Usun iya Pagan

Debi ta faisen i militat ya u presenta kabales planuña pot iya Pagan. Gi halom maprepara na pakete, kau guaha planon para u fan ayuda ma-establesen komunida guihe hulu'?

Gi halom planu, haf' na fasilidat para u fan ma-establese? Kau guaha para adelantun puettu, plasan batkon aire, kandet yan hanom? Gi este na puntu, kau para umasede natibu sumaunau gi usun presisu na nesessidat tat kumu hanom?

Siempre kahulu' lokue' finaisen treken tanu' ginen hagas man-residenten iya Pagan. Seha un' ratu ya un' faisen maisa hau kau guaha fotmat papet-mu na dueñu hau tanu' giya Pagan? Este na asuntu yan futturon ayu siha i maigaige Saipan dispues de mattiron pagpag botkan debi hita mismu tana' fagpu gi halom hita.

Bonita na tanu'

'Nai hu bisita iya Pagan 'nos kuantos años malofan, hu li'e ginatboña ginen i aire yan gi hilu' tanu'. Huñgan mange'yu' petsonatmente 'nai ileghu na achog ha' ti uma-estotba i tai achaigua na ginabotña. Dispues, esta man-safu i man-estaba guihe 'nai pagpag i botkan gi '84 na sakan.

Bonita na tanu' ni umalapapat yan Hawaii gi mapan elmundu. Taya' otru parehuña gi halom islas siha guine. Pot esso na debi u ma-atan haf" dinisehata antes de tana' lebog i gasgas na hanom Pagan. Todu natibu man-libre umekspressia sentimenton niha pot usun iya Pagan. Tanu' todu natibu 'sino indihinau este siha na islas.

Yangin pot gera, na ti magahet na este na puntu esta balan nuclear bombs para umana' fan setbe gi geran entalu' nasion? Manu i hagas modun gera 'nai siña ta pega gi halom este na modun estrakadan nasion?

I puntu: Mampos atbansau fuetsan balan Amerikanu ya gi mismu tiempu para i sige ha' usun marinu gi mahatmen tanu' otru nasion? Haf' na ti siña umayotte ha' balan rocket ni gai nuclear na materiat ni libianu hafa' apu i otru?

Kulan hu suspepecha na guaha mas taduñg na rason na para u halom mas aktibu na militat. Diberas, gaige este na puntu gi miman tano'ta gi halom tasi siha. Chatniha dadageyu' na pot presisu na umaprotehe iya Marianas. Na ti esta guaha planu para umapega nuclear na atmas gi bisinuta Guam?

CHAVEZ

From Page 10

he doesn't want to talk about is the steaming pile of problems the sainted Chavez left behind.

While opposition candidate Henrique Capriles talks about cutting off billions in oil subsidies to Cuba and using that money to repair Venezuela's economy, Maduro promises to continue the unsustainable social "missions" that bought Chavez the hearts of the country's poor.

While Capriles talks about better ties with the United States, Maduro parrots Chavez's claim that the Yankees are trying to destabilize Latin America. (U.S. agents, in fact, are plotting to kill both candidates, Maduro says, and might have injected Chavez with the cancer that killed him.)

While Capriles talks about the country's alarmingly high murder rate, Maduro says, "The truth is that capitalism is to blame for the violence in this country."

Coming up on Sunday's election, Maduro is leading by double digits in the polls.

He's still not talking about food shortages, electrical blackouts or 23 percent unemployment. It's all Chavez.

ChavezChavezChavezChavezChavez.

Anonymous detractors maintain a website—madurodice.com (Spanish for "Maduro says")—that claims to track how many times the candidate has mentioned Chavez on radio or TV. As of Thursday, it was up to more than 7,100, or more than 200 times a day.

We get it, we get it. He's marketing himself as the second coming of Hugo Chavez.

We just don't get why voters would buy it.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Existing HR experts

The CHC board is inclined to spend $30,000 for a recruitment search for a CEO for the hospital, and it plans to hire a local vendor for this work. Does it really cost this much to find a person to manage the hospital? Is there someone in the CNMI government who could do this work and spare the hospital the cost of recruitment? Why do we need a vendor to do this if this basic human resource event can be done by utilizing available human resource management talents the CNMI government already has and is paying for? All that needs to happen is a request by the appointing authority or the governor can command the human resources management professionals in the CNMI government as the logical venue for any and all high level recruitment needs of the CNMI government. We need not defer to an external human resources management professional or company when we have plenty that are well paid and should be assigned any type of human resource management functions.

The executive director of the Civil Service Commission and the director of OPM should be the primary two positions in the CNMI government that would perfectly match the professional qualifications and capacity to solve any human resources management problems of the CNMI government. These positions' job contents should cover and meet the know-how, problem solving, and accountability level that would successfully take charge for the recruitment of the CEO of the hospital. The CNMI government's investment in human resources management capacity and knowledge is not spare change, and it should have every reason to fully utilize all the human resources management expertise it is paying for and is available at its disposal. And exploring this option is a normal and legitimate exercise of good government. In addition to the two positions noted here, the CNMI government has a cadre of human resources management managers that it could commission to answer any type of human resource management issues that need solutions for the CNMI government. These human resource managers can be found in autonomous and non-autonomous agencies and departments such as PSS, CUC, CPA, CHC itself, NMC, court, Legislature, mayors' offices on the three islands, OPM, and other offices that are already paying for this type of work.

If we don't think outside the box on matters like this, then the CNMI government is indeed a good place where "burning bridges" is the norm. Let's make these professionals prove their value to the CNMI government and taxpayers. This is not much to ask for in a job that is paying very well than most in the NMI. And the fact is, recruitment for positions is a normal part of their job. Frankly, why do we need a vendor that would only laugh at the CNMI government for the easy money he will make down the food chain of this windfall?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

My mother or my son

With all due respect to Mr. Alex Sablan, the Chamber of Commerce, and it members, as a retirees I was concerned over their statement on April 11, 2013, titled "Chamber believes reduction in retiree benefits more constructive than casino tax hike." I really do respect their findings and opinion on the matter but it really bothers me as a retiree. Allow me to cite an example of the same possible situation: myself, my 6-year-old son and my mother. We go out on a small boat for line fishing inside the reef. The water is about 75 feet deep. Out of nowhere a big wave slams into our boat and the boat collapses and all of us are in the water. My mother and son don't know how to swim. The situation was to save only one or else I'll die too. The question now is who to save? My mother stands for the retirees and my son is the casino tax hike. In my own way of answering this situation is that I will save my mother. Why? Because I can't find a mother exactly like her. I could always find a way or solution to come up with a son. I understand that it would never be the same son.

Now consider my mother is the retirees. Retirees are the people who worked for the CNMI government for decades and decades. The casino tax hike are investors who do gambling business in the CNMI. They pay gambling taxes. I have nothing against the investors but of course I am a retiree, I need to also defend the retirees, just like the Chamber of Commerce has a role in defending businesses. To be equal and fair, none of these issues should be happening. There are already enough problems for the Retirement Fund. Please don't add more problems to the retirees to make us suffer.

In section 20(A) of the Constitution, the pension of the retirees cannot be reduced and only the voting people could change the Constitution. If the Fund is out of money to pay pensions to the retirees, then the CNMI government is obligated to pay the retirees' pension every 15th and 30th of the month. The retirees have done their part and commitment to the CNMI government. Please find another alternative solution.

Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla , Saipan

GENIUS

From Page 10

body state. The physicists employed a little-known auditory phenomenon, Binaural Beats. The Binaural Beats can get you into an altered state of consciousness, and you can find hundreds of CDs on eBay and other places on the Internet, as well as the Hemi-Sync site.

If you listen to a Hemi-Sync Binaural Beat recording with headphones, you are mentally guided into an alpha brainstate. Some of these recordings have verbal guidance, similar to the Silva tapes, that take you deeper, and into progressively higher states of conscious awareness.

Because of the Binaural technology, the two hemispheres of your brain (left and right) begin to work together, resulting in a Whole Brain State. When this happens, your powers of intuition and sensing capabilities become exponentially increased.

After using the Hemi-Sync CDs for four years, I became intuitively concerned about the stock market. Sensing there was going to be a crash, I sold all of my stock in July 2008 and took the check straight to the bank. On Sept. 15, the market crashed, Lehman Brothers went belly-up, and thousands of people lost their money. My intuition had saved the day!

Whether you use The Silva Method, Hemi-Sync CDs, or Binaural Beat CDs from another source, they will do two things. You will become relaxed and, with repeated listenings, become highly intuitive. But don't expect results with the first listening; you have to do it every day, and train your brain to enter a Whole Brain State. Depending on how deep you are able to go, it may take a week or a month. I still listen to Silva or Monroe recordings every day, or nearly, with my little bedside MP3 player.

With repeated listenings, you will notice subtle changes in your life. You will sense things you could not have perceived before. You will make better decisions about your life, work, and everything else. Oh yes, you can find a parking place a lot more easily also; you will just "know" where to find it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy with isolated showers by afternoon. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

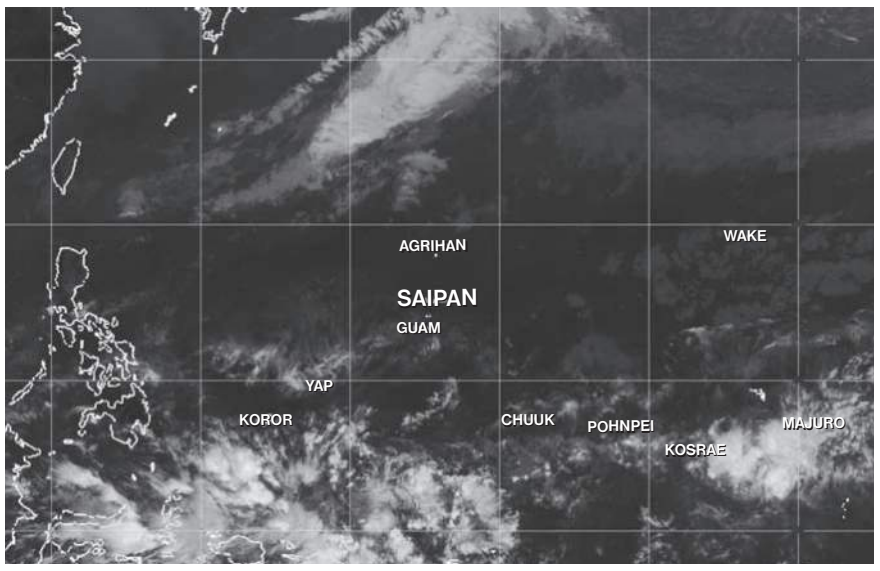
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲65	▼46
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Showers	▲57	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲67	▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼58
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼56
Pusan	Showers	▲59	▼51
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Iwo To island at 25N141E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen along and north of the front to beyond 25N. Scattered showers ahead of the front are between Pagan and Iwo To island within 150 miles of a line from 25N144E to 21N142E. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 3N130E to EQ148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 6N130E to 7N140E to 3N151E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from across Majuro and Kosrae to south of Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 5N154E to 9N176E to 2N172E back to 5N154E. A cold front curves westward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N171E to 24N162E to 25N153E. Patchy clouds and rain are seen along and north of this front to beyond 25N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:12 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	11:01 AM	
Thursday	11:50 AM	12:06 AM
Friday	12:40 PM	12:32 AM
Saturday	1:30 PM	1:32 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Study: Sea water to inundate Pacific isles sooner

HONOLULU (AP)—Low-lying atolls in the Pacific Ocean will likely be inundated by sea water sooner than previously anticipated as the planet warms, a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey suggests.

Researchers studied Midway Atoll and Laysan Island in the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument for their report, and demonstrate the problems rising sea level pose for seabirds, Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles and other wildlife that live there.

But both places have landforms and coastal features common to many islands in the Pacific, however, and scientists say the findings are also important for people who live in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and other low-lying Pacific island groups.

Earlier research suggested the atolls would remain above sea level for the next 50 to 150 years, research oceanographer Curt Storlazzi of the USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center said in a news release Thursday. But a model accounting for storm wind and wave action suggests rising sea levels will affect the islands sooner.

"By taking wave-driven processes into account, we forecast that many of the atolls will be inundated, contaminating freshwater supplies and thus making the islands uninhabitable, much sooner," Storlazzi said. The study didn't give specific dates.

The new modeling method forecasts at least twice as much land will be inundated on Midway and Laysan compared to earlier research.

The USGS says the models offer tools to forecast where salt water may damage agricultural land and contaminate groundwater.

XINHUA

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, left, holds a welcoming ceremony for Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, April 10, 2013.

New visa to strengthen New Zealand-China ties

WELLINGTON—A new visa agreement between New Zealand and China will allow business travelers multiple entries between the two countries for up to three years, the New Zealand government announced Thursday.

Prime Minister John Key, currently on an official visit to China, said the new multiple-entry business visa would strengthen business connections between the two countries.

"The new visa will lower the cost of travel for frequent business travelers and make it easier for business people to move between the two countries," Key said in a statement from his office.

"Business people from both countries will not need to apply for visas as frequently. This will reduce the transaction costs, and increase the certainty of business travel."

The new visas, which will apply from July 1, mean China can issue New Zealand business visitors with a three-year multiple-entry visa enabling them to stay for up to 30 days on any one visit.

New Zealand can issue Chinese business visitors with three-year multiple entry visas enabling them to stay for a maximum of 90 days in any 12-month period over the course of the three years.

The two countries also agreed reciprocal three-year multiple- entry visas to diplomatic passport holders traveling for official meetings. ***(Xinhua)***

Bordallo wants THAAD missile system in Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) raised concerns Friday about ongoing threats from North Korea during a full committee posture hearing, held by the House Armed Services Committee, on the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Budget Request of the Department of Defense.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, provided testimony.

Bordallo

Bordallo asked whether the THAAD system would be permanently deployed to Guam, consistent with the Record of Decision on the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation environmental impact statement. The purpose of the missile defense capabilities in Guam was to protect its citizens and critical military assets from broad missile threats in the region, including North Korea. She also asked about the level of confidence in the readiness of U.S. forces, given the budget constraints and asked how the Pentagon would be able to identify a readiness crisis should one arise.

Hagel reiterated that the U.S. military is prepared to respond to any threat to the country and national security interests. Dempsey also provided reassurance, noting that the Pentagon is working to ensure the safety of the military and civilian communities in Guam. On the question of the permanency of a THAAD system in Guam, he said the Pentagon has set a 90-day trial to decide whether it is in the best interest of national security to leave it on island.

"The release of the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2014…included substantial support for strengthening Guam's role as a strategic hub in the Asia-Pacific, and I appreciated the opportunity to address ongoing threats from North Korea as well as the readiness of our Armed Forces," said Bordallo. "I thanked Secretary Hagel and General Dempsey for their leadership and pro-active approach with respect to the current North Korean threats. Their willingness to reposition a THAAD missile defense system on Guam is reassuring news for our community, and continues with the longstanding support and cooperation the military and community share on the island of Guam.

"I also appreciate the department's continued commitment of funding for the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam. We've made some positive progress this past year and I think the fiscal year 2014 budget builds off this progress. This period of uncertainty for our island is a reminder of the need to strengthen our military's presence in this increasingly vital region." ***(PR)***

Lotte Duty Free gets Guam airport retail concession

On July 19, 2012, GIAA issued a request for proposal seeking a qualified concessionaire to develop, construct, and operate a high quality specialty retail concession at the GIAA Main Passenger Terminal.

Proposals were submitted by four proposers on Oct. 17, 2012. An evaluation committee was designated by the executive manager to review and evaluate the proposals based on evaluation criteria delineated in the RFP. After conducting interviews with each of the proposers and thoroughly reviewing each of the proposals, on March 28, 2013, a recommendation was submitted to the executive manager to adopt the rankings of the evaluation committee and to allow GIAA management to commence negotiations with the highest ranked proposer. The executive manager approved the recommendation of the evaluation committee and recommended to the GIAA board of directors that they also approve the recommendations of the evaluation committee.

Yesterday the GIAA board of directors approved the request by the executive manager t0 adopt the ranking results of the evaluation committee. The proposer ranked No. 1 and approved to commence negotiations of a concession agreement is Lotte Duty Free.

Although the terms of Lotte Duty Free's proposal remain non-public until final contract signing, under the RFP, all proposers were required to meet certain minimum qualifications, including:

- At least five years of continuous experience within the last seven years in the ownership and management of a similar type of retail merchandise business as that which is contemplated under the RFP.
- At least one single location operated by the proposer must have had gross sales of at least $25 million per year for each of the five qualifying years.
- Demonstrated history of having successfully operated within a TSA (or foreign equivalent) administered or controlled airport environment.
- Evidence of proposer's ability to finance and undertake the financial commitments required to successfully develop, construct and operate the proposed concession.
- Proposed minimum annual guaranteed rent in an amount equal to or exceeding $6,000,000 each lease year. ***(PR)***

Monaco's prince willing to help Palau

Palau's President Tommy Remengesau Jr. is considering a ban on all commercial fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone but will not implement that unless there are alternative sources to replace lost revenues.

"This is neither a light decision to make nor do we take its impact lightly," Remengesau told reporters.

According to the president, Palau earns less than US$5 million through fishing licenses, exports and indirect taxes from the fishing industry.

"A drop in a bucket," he described the money it is earning from the multi-billion venture.

"First, we want to be clear there is a mechanism in place to replace the fishing revenue, because if we move abruptly to close our waters without funding mechanisms in place or finding other sources of revenue, our government will suffer," the president said.

He said the proposal is in its early stages and he will be working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, lawmakers and community stakeholders to ensure it will be a success and not a mere declaration.

He said funds from fishing ventures are mainly money appropriated to the state government in the form of fishing rights fees. He said part of the program or vision is to create a trust fund, or grant sources or partnership from a country or non-governmental organization to have these funds replaced.

The proposal was announced during the visit of Prince Albert of Monaco to Palau. He said the prince was willing to make this proposal come true.

Closing down the EEZ will also ensure that tuna stocks are conserved. It will also curb overfishing that depletes Palau's marine resources.

"The very foundation of this idea [closing the EEZ] is conservation so that we may have sustainable marine resources in years to come.

"To cite an example, the current rate of fishing is the primary reason the population of bluefin tuna has been almost decimated worldwide. Not only bluefin, but also skipjack tuna, yellowfin and other fisheries have also suffered a decline in population because the fishing industry is employing modern technology to make fishing more efficient and sophisticated."

The president said monitoring enforcement could also be a problem but with help from private partners and stronger laws against overfishing, this can be an easy feat.

The president added that he is also looking at the possibility of using drone technology to man the country's EEZ.

Palau's Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism Umiich Sengebau stated that Palau is not getting enough revenue from the fishing industry and that this could be replaced by beefing up the tourism sector and partnership with NGOs whose aim is to help countries conserve their resources. ***(Island Business)***

FSM hotel closes after 40 years in business

After 40 years of business in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Village Hotel, a tourism icon in the country, has closed after failing to renew its land lease.

The Pohnpei based hotel—owned by Americans Bob and Patti Arthur—was popular with visitors from Europe and America because of its eco-friendly practices.

Bob Arthur says the hotel was a labor of love and its closure is a huge loss for them and also those who worked there.

He says the negotiations for the land lease just became too complicated with the different landowners, and they had no choice in the end but to leave.

"We started off with four landowners to start with and the second time around we had 26, and if you have ever tried to negotiate with people in one setting or one instance, it can't be done."

Bob Arthur says the closure of the hotel will leave 52 people out of work.

The closure of the hotel comes as debate begins on the proposal for a controversial billion dollar 10,000-room hotel development on Yap by a Chinese consortium. ***(Radio New Zealand International)***

Business

AP Exclusive: Likely tax cheats flock South, West

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worried the Internal Revenue Service might target you for an audit? You probably should be if you own a small business in one of the wealthy suburbs of Los Angeles.

You might also be wary if you're a small-business owner in one of dozens of communities near San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta or the District of Columbia.

A new study by the National Taxpayer Advocate used confidential IRS data to show large clusters of potential tax cheats in these five metropolitan areas. The IRS uses the information to target taxpayers for audits.

AP

This March 22, 2013 file photo shows the exterior of the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington.

The taxpayer advocate, Nina Olsen, runs an independent office within the IRS. She got access to the data as part of an effort to learn more about why some taxpayers are more likely to cheat than others. The study also looked at tax compliance in different industries, and found that people who own construction companies or real estate rental firms may be more likely to fudge their taxes than business owners in other fields.

Many of the communities identified by the study are very wealthy, including Beverly Hills and Newport Beach in California. Others are more middle class, such as New Carrollton, Md., a Washington suburb, and College Park, Ga., home to a section of Atlanta's massive airport.

Steve Rosansky, president and CEO of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, said business owners in his city are probably targeted because many have high incomes. The likelihood of an audit does increase with income, according to IRS data.

"I imagine it's just a matter of them going where they think the money's at," Rosansky said in an interview. "I guess if I was running the IRS I'd probably do the same thing."

The study focused on small-business owners—sole proprietorships, to be specific—because they have more opportunity than the typical individual to cheat on their taxes. Many small businesses deal in cash while most individuals get paid in wages that are reported to the IRS.

The IRS only audits about 1 percent of tax returns each year, so the agency tries to pick returns that are most likely to yield additional tax money.

The IRS will not say much about how agents choose their targets. But as millions of procrastinators scramble to meet Monday's deadline to file their taxes, the agency is running every tax return through a confidential computer program to determine the chances of collecting more money from an audit.

Each tax return is assigned a score. The higher your score, the more likely you are to get audited because, according to the IRS, the more likely you are cheating on your taxes.

The score is called the Discriminant Inventory Function, or DIF. A high DIF score does not guarantee you are a tax cheat but the IRS claims it's reliable.

"If your return is selected because of a high score under the DIF system, the potential is high that an examination of your return will result in a change to your income tax liability," says an IRS publication that explains the auditing process.

How do you get high score? The IRS won't say, but veteran tax preparers and former IRS workers believe they have a pretty good idea.

"If you're reporting $8,000 of charitable contributions when you're only making $50,000, that's a red flag," said Bob Meighan, vice president of TurboTax, an online tax preparation service. "Likewise if you're reporting business or employee expenses that are out of the ordinary for your income range, that would attract the interest of the IRS as well."

The bottom line, according to the experts: People who take unusually large deductions for their income get a high score. Also, business owners who claim unusually large expenses for the size and type of their business get a high score. "I had a case here where the person made about $40,000 and they claimed $25,000 of employment-related expenses," said Elizabeth Maresca, a former IRS lawyer who now teaches law at Fordham University.

Egypt releases $600 million to meet import needs

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's central bank conducted an exceptionally large foreign exchange auction on Sunday, selling $600 million to banks that urgently need money to pay for basic imports like wheat and materials for industry and medicine.

The central bank said in a statement that the auction, which is five times the usual weekly amount, was aimed at encouraging the banking sector to bolster the domestic economy. It sold at 6.87 Egyptian pounds to the U.S. dollar.

A banker with inside knowledge about the auction said banks in Egypt were running low on dollars for vital imports. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

He said that the central bank, which uses an intermediary for the sale of U.S. dollars, prioritized banks that do not typically receive the bulk of money they bid for and whose customers import staple commodities among other needed goods.

Egypt imports much more than it exports. It is the world's largest importer of wheat.

The bank said in its statement that the "exceptional auction" required banks to provide details about their clients' needs in importing medicine and vaccines, as well as commodities like meat, poultry, oil, beans, lentils, butter and corn.

Egypt's economy is burdened by heavy subsidies of wheat and fuel, and more than half of the population relies on them for survival. Fuel shortages in recent months have crippled life for millions across the country.

The banker, who was involved in Sunday's auction, said that for the past five days he and his colleagues worked on producing lengthy, detailed reports about their clients' needs for paying foreign sellers.

While he said that Sunday's sale almost fully met his bank's needs, he did not expect the central bank will be able to hold many auctions of this kind. The bank did not specify when another auction of this kind would take place.

Foreign reserves stood at $13.4 billion at the end of March, a critical low that does not cover three months' worth of imports. The reserves stood at $36 billion before the January 2011 uprising that ousted longtime President Hosni Mubarak.

Qatar, which has warm ties with Egypt's powerful Muslim Brotherhood group, has thrown the government several lifelines by injecting $5 billion into the country's central bank. It pledged another $3 billion last week.

China's economic growth slows in first quarter

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth slowed unexpectedly in the first three months of the year, fueling concern about the strength of its shaky recovery.

The world's second-largest economy grew by 7.7 percent over a year earlier, down from the previous quarter's 7.9 percent, the government reported Monday. That fell short of many private sector forecasts that growth would accelerate slightly to 8 percent.

A recovery still is under way but is "very soft—very slow and gradual," said Societe Generale economist Wei Yao.

China's growth rebounded late last year from its deepest slump since the 2008 global crisis but analysts say a recovery will be weak and still is being supported by government spending, while growth in consumer spending is subdued.

The economy has given mixed signals, raising questions about whether a full-fledged recovery was gaining traction.

Inflation fell in March, suggesting consumer demand might not be as strong as Beijing hoped. Import growth accelerated, suggesting companies and consumers were buying more, but some analysts said those figures might be distorted and unreliable.

Bank lending has risen but Monday's data showed investment, which is a key driver of the latest recovery, slowing.

Spending on factories, real estate and other fixed assets rose 20.9 percent in the first quarter, down from the 21.1 percent rate for the first two months of the year.

That shows the economy suffers from structural problems including excess production capacity in some industries that makes more investment unprofitable, said Yao.

"Given all this credit injected into the system, the future should look better," said Yao. "Nevertheless, the level of efficiency in the economy has declined. The same amount of money will no longer produce the same amount of growth."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EU officials seek more private investment in jobs

DUBLIN (AP)—With many of the European Union's economies mired in stagnation, EU officials are seeking to emulate part of the U.S. model for creating growth and jobs by fostering more private investment in businesses. Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said Saturday that in the United States banks account for only 25 percent of external financing for businesses. In Europe, he said, the proportion is the opposite—70 to 75 percent of business financing comes from banks. He spoke at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of EU finance ministers in Dublin. "There was a shared view that we must begin to take tangible action to assist in developing a more balanced financial system in which banks, institutional investors and public authorities all play a role in supporting long-term investment in growth and jobs," Noonan said.

Investigators probe jet's crash into sea in Bali

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Investigators were working to determine what caused a new Lion Air passenger jet to miss the runway and crash into the sea off the Indonesian resort island of Bali, in the expanding budget airline's seventh accident in 11 years. All 108 people on board survived Saturday's crash, which has renewed questions about how safe it is to fly in Indonesia. The country has struggled to clean up its poor air safety record while improving oversight. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday it was sending a team to assist Indonesia's investigation because the Boeing 737-800 that crashed was designed and made in the U.S. The team will include advisers from the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing.

Nation

Rubio says immigration deal needs tough terms

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan deal on immigration legislation would need tough enforcement and even stricter penalties for those who came to the United States illegally, a leading Republican at the center of negotiations said Sunday.

Sen. Marco Rubio, who's among the eight senators writing a plan that's expected to come out Tuesday, tried to promote and defend the framework for the emerging overhaul that would provide a path toward citizenship for those who came to the country illegally or overstayed their visit.

While the deal does include a long and difficult process for the 11 million individuals in question, Rubio insisted the proposal does not include an "amnesty" provision that fellow conservatives have called a deal-breaker.

"We're not awarding anybody anything. All we're doing is giving people the opportunity to eventually earn access to our new, improved and modernized legal immigration system," said Rubio, a Florida Republican and Cuban-American.

But among some of his fellow Republicans, there are serious doubts.

"I'm not convinced," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. "I know Sen. Rubio's heart is exactly right. And I really respect the work of the `Gang of Eight.' But they have produced legislation ... that will give amnesty now, legalize everyone that's here effectively today and then there's a promise of enforcement in the future."

Sen. Mike Lee, a Utah Republican, added: "The pathway to citizenship, right now, before those other elements are in place, is the deal-breaker for me."

He said he could consider supporting the proposals only if the first priority were border security.

AP

Roberto Morales, 25, holds a sign representing a permanent resident card, while attending the "Rally for Citizenship" in support of immigration reform, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Rubio said he would abandon the overhaul effort if enforcement, border security and other elements are softened to his dissatisfaction. With an eye on a possible White House run in 2016, Rubio has been careful not to appear weak on border security or create political problems among the conservatives who have great sway in picking the GOP's nominee.

Rubio also told those immigrants that it would perhaps be easier if they returned to their home countries and started the process from scratch rather than use the process Rubio is proposing.

"So I would argue that the existing law is actually more lenient, that going back and waiting 10 years is going to be cheaper and faster that going through this process that we are outlining," he said.

Other lawmakers helping to write the legislation acknowledged the political challenges of the issue.

"A lot of my conservative colleagues have significant questions and they're legitimate," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "This is the start of a process, this is a vehicle that requires hearings, requires input and we welcome all of that. ... I am guardedly optimistic that we will see finally the end of this long, long trek that a lot of us have been on for many years."

The measure would put millions who are in the U.S. illegally on a 13-year path to citizenship, while toughening border security requirements, mandating that all employers check the legal status of workers, and allowing tens of thousands of new high- and low-skilled workers into the country with new visa programs.

The legislation is expected to include a new emphasis on merit-based immigration over family ties.

"This is a very balanced bill. The American people have told us to do two things: one, prevent future flows of illegal immigration; and then, come up with a common-sense solution for legal immigration. And that's what our bill does," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

All of this, however, is contingent on the border security and enforcement, Rubio said.

"If you are undocumented here now, if you are illegally in the U.S., that you can't even apply for this until these plans are in place and they begin to implement them," Rubio said. "And then you're going to have to pay a fine. You're going to have to pay an application fee. You're going to have to pass a background check." Without those pieces, the path to citizenship is unavailable, and the proposal is available only for those who arrived in the United States before Dec. 31, 2011. Anyone who came after that date would be subject to deportation.

Rubio pressed his case during interviews on ABC's "This Week," CBS' "Face the Nation," CNN's "State of the Union", "Fox News Sunday" and NBC's "Meet the Press." He also was booked on the Spanish-language networks Telemundo and Univision. Sessions and Schumer were on ABC while McCain appeared on CNN.

Close vote seen on background checks on gun buyers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan Senate proposal to expand background checks for gun buyers gained the backing of one Republican and the potential support of a second Sunday as sponsors said the vote expected this week was too close to call.

The plan would "strengthen the background check system without in any way infringing on Second Amendment rights," Maine Sen. Susan Collins said in a statement explaining her support for the measure. But she added that "it is impossible to predict at this point" what will be in a final bill.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who has a B+ rating from the National Rifle Association, said he was "very favorably disposed" to the proposal that has emerged from Sens. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

"I appreciate their work," McCain said. "And the American people want to do what we can to prevent these tragedies. And there's a lot more that needs to be done, particularly in the area of mental health."

It was in McCain's home state that a gunman with schizophrenia shot then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in the head during a 2011 rampage in Tucson that left six people killed.

Collins and Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois are the only two Republicans besides Toomey who are expected to vote for the compromise as of now.

It will take 60 votes to pass, meaning that more Republicans will have to come on board because some Democrats from gun-friendly states are expected to oppose the measure.

"It's an open question as to whether or not we have the votes. I think it's going to be close," Toomey said.

The measure requires background checks for people buying guns at gun shows and online. Background checks currently apply only to transactions handled by the country's 55,000 licensed gun dealers. Private transactions, such as a sale of a gun between family members, would still be exempt.

Manchin urged lawmakers to read the 49-page proposal. He said it should dispel any misconceptions about infringing on the constitutional right to bear arms.

Inmates, orchestra members perform behind bars

CHICAGO (AP)—Strains of classical music echoed on Sunday—not inside an august concert hall—but in a bleak Chicago jail where the mostly teenage boys await trial on charges ranging from dope dealing to murder.

The concert was part of a unique outreach that's the brainchild of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's musical director, the Italian-born Riccardo Muti, who attended the event at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center on Chicago's West Side.

The concert included half a dozen of the orchestra's members. But the center-stage performers were some 10 inmates who participated in a weeklong musical workshop at the lockup. It culminated in the Sunday concert featuring compositions the inmates wrote in collaboration with the professionals.

"This is a wonderful beginning for you and for us," Muti, 71, told the group after the 45-minute performance ended. "You will join society with the sense of harmony you learned here."

One composition began with a double bass playing a Bach cello suite. It changed direction jarringly a minute later as the teen inmates joined in rapping. One sang about his legal plight: "I hope the judge says I served my time. ... I'm praying God gets me out of this jam."

Some of the boys' parents sat in the audience, several with tears in their eyes.

When one of the organizers announced the inmates and their families will receive CD recordings of the concert, one mother buried her head in her hands.

"Oh my God, this is so special," she said aloud.

The goal of the outreach, which has included other jail visits, is to impart a wider appreciation for music and to inspire at-risk youth. It seemed to work for at least some of the teens.

Man jailed as slain DA investigation continues

KAUFMAN, Texas (AP)—Authorities investigating the deaths of a North Texas district attorney and his wife appear to have narrowed their focus on a former justice of the peace prosecuted last year by the official for theft.

Eric Lyle Williams, 46, was arrested Saturday on a charge of making a terroristic threat and is being held in the Kaufman County Jail on $3 million bond. His arrest came after federal and local agents investigating the March 28 deaths of Kaufman County District Attorney Mike McLelland and his wife, Cynthia, searched Williams' home on Friday.

Authorities have said little about their investigation into the McClellands' deaths and have not named any suspects. Previous possible culprits mentioned included a white supremacist prison gang known as the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas, which had been targeted by a task force that included McLelland's office.

Two others have been arrested for making terroristic threats during the investigation into the slayings, but authorities said they had no connection to the deaths.

Kaufman County sheriff's office spokesman Justin Lewis declined to discuss the weekend developments. "Mr. Williams has not been charged with murder," Lewis said Sunday in an email.

A spokeswoman for the FBI would not comment Sunday on the ongoing investigation, and Williams' attorney did not return a phone message.

Asia

Despite tension, NKorea lets in tourists, athletes

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Despite North Korea's warnings that the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula is so high it cannot guarantee the safety of foreign residents, it hosted athletes from around the world for its biggest international marathon yet ahead of Monday's commemoration of the country's most important holiday.

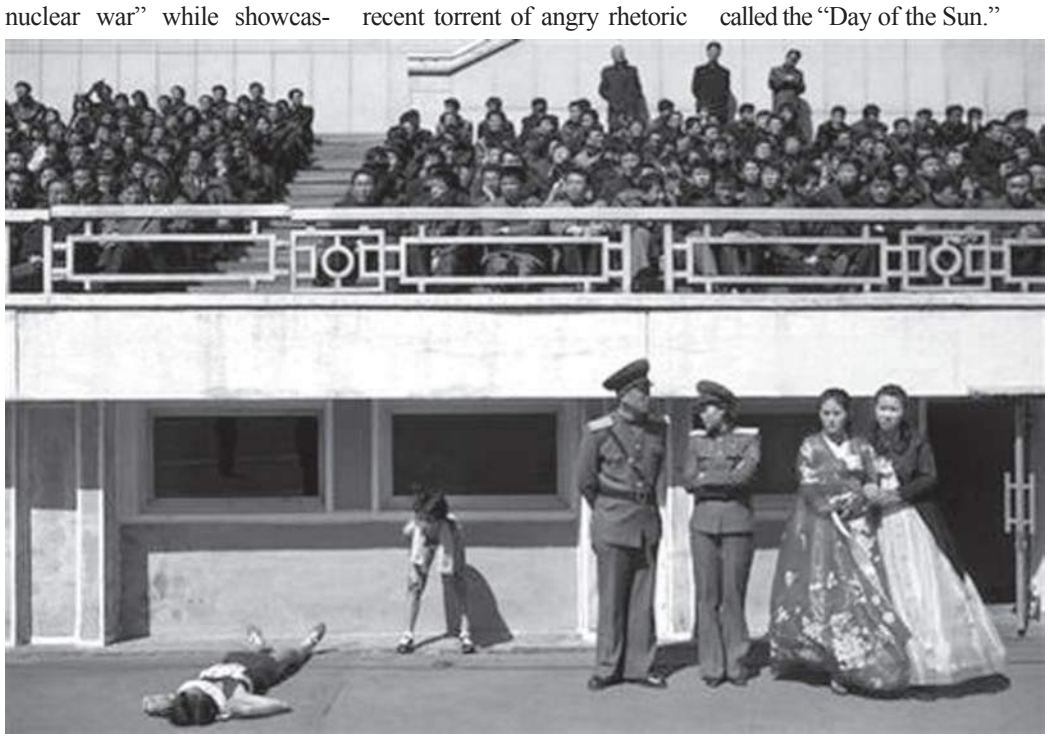
The race through the North Korean capital Sunday—and the crowds who turned out to watch—suggested that the country's concerns of an imminent military crisis might not be as dire as its official pronouncements proclaim. The mixed message—threats of a "thermonuclear war" while showcasing foreign athletes and even encouraging tourism—has been especially striking in the lead-up to Monday's birthday of national founder Kim Il Sung.

Early Monday, Kim's grandson and current dynastic leader—Kim Jong Un—visited the Pyongyang mausoleum to pay "high tribute in humblest reverence" where his grandfather's body lies embalmed, the official Korean Central News Agency said. He also visited the embalmed body of his father, the country's second leader, who died in December 2011.

Foreign governments have been struggling to assess how seriously to take North Korea's recent torrent of angry rhetoric over continuing U.S.-South Korea military maneuvers just across the border. Officials in South Korea, the United States and Japan say intelligence indicates that, fresh off a successful nuclear test in February, North Korea's leaders are ready to launch a new medium-range missile.

But there has not been much sense of crisis in Pyongyang.

On Sunday, athletes from 16 nations competed in the 26th Mangyongdae Prize Marathon in the morning and then filled a performance hall for a gala concert featuring ethnic Korean performers brought in from China, Russia and Japan as part of the events culminating in Kim's birthday—called the "Day of the Sun."



AP

Runners rest inside Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea on Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Kerry hopes next Palestinian PM can work with US

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday he hoped the Palestinians pick a new prime minister who can work with the United States and "establish confidence" so that Mideast peace can advance.

Speaking to journalists in Tokyo, Kerry praised Salaam Fayyad, who until resigning Saturday as prime minister was seen as one of the Palestinians' most moderate and respected figures. Kerry called Fayyad a "good friend" who made a big difference for Palestinians.

Fayyad's resignation comes as Kerry is working to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. An important part of his strategy is developing the Palestinian economy and state institutions so the Palestinians can be a viable partner in any peace deal with Israel.

The United States had expected Fayyad to play a significant role in that effort.

But the 61-year-old political independent and Western-trained economist had clashed with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas over the extent of the prime minister's power.

"We're totally committed to moving forward with the economic thing no matter what," Kerry said, citing U.S. business partners including Coca-Cola. "The West Bank is there, Palestinian aspirations are there, the government is there. And in order to be a viable government, there's got to be more than one person that you can do business with."

"So we will continue to work at this and hope that President Abbas finds the right person to work with him in a transition, and work with us, to establish confidence," he added. "Everybody is going to want somebody who provides confidence."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar's leader: Nation needs to learn from past

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's president said Sunday his country needs to learn from the violence and instability that has wracked the Southeast Asian nation over the last two years if it is to overcome the challenge of democratization. Thein Sein spoke in a radio address broadcast to mark the start a day earlier of a traditional New Year holiday that is celebrated by revelers across Southeast Asia with friendly water fights. Thein Sein, a former general, took office two years ago after Myanmar's long ruling junta stepped down. He has since led an unprecedented transition toward democratic rule, releasing political prisoners, easing censorship and signing cease-fire deals with all but one of the nation's rebel groups.

Fire spreads to hotel in China, killing 13 people

BEIJING (AP)—A fire at an Internet cafe spread to a hotel on the upper floors of a building in central China, killing 13 people and injuring 50 others. Some of the hotel guests escaped and firefighters rescued others from the building in Xiangyang city in Hubei province. The fire started just after 6:30 a.m. Sunday and was extinguished before 9 a.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said 42 of the hotel's 50 rooms were occupied.

World

Opposition candidate demands recount in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Hugo Chavez's handpicked successor, Nicolas Maduro, won a razor-thin victory in Sunday's special presidential election, edging the opposition's leader by only about 300,000 votes, electoral officials announced.

His challenger, Henrique Capriles, declared that he wouldn't accept the results and called for a full recount.

Maduro's stunningly close victory came after a campaign in which the winner promised to carry on Chavez's self-proclaimed socialist revolution while Capriles' main message was that Chavez's 14-year regime put Venezuela on the road to ruin.

Maduro, acting president since Chavez's death, held a double-digit advantage in opinion polls just two weeks ago, but electoral officials said he got just 50.7 percent of the votes to 49.1 percent for Capriles with nearly all ballots counted.

Chavistas set off fireworks and blasted car horns as they cruised downtown Caracas in jubilation.

In a victory speech, Maduro told a crowd outside the presidential palace that his victory was further proof that Chavez "continues to be invincible, that he continues to win battles."

At Capriles' campaign headquarters, people hung their heads quietly as the results were announced by an electoral council stacked with government loyalists. Many started crying; others just stared at TV screens in disbelief.

But Capriles emerged later to angrily reject the official vote totals.

"It is the government that has been defeated," he said.

Capriles said at his campaign's headquarters that his campaign's tally of votes came up with "a result that is different from the results announced today."

"The biggest loser today is you," he said, directly addressing Maduro through the camera. "The people don't love you."

Maduro said during his speech that Capriles had called him before the results were announced to suggest a "pact" and that Maduro refused.

There was no comment from Capriles' camp on Maduro's claim.

Maduro, a longtime foreign minister to Chavez, rode a wave of sympathy for the charismatic leader to victory, pinning his hopes on the immense loyalty for his boss among millions of poor beneficiaries of government largesse and the powerful state apparatus that Chavez skillfully consolidated.

Capriles' main campaign weapon was to simply emphasize "the incompetence of the state" in handling the world's largest oil reserves.

Hezbollah-backed Lebanese Shiites fight in Syria

AL QASR, Lebanon (AP)—Masked men in camouflage toting Kalashnikov rifles fan out through a dusty olive grove, part of a group of Hezbollah-backed fighters from Lebanon who are patrolling both sides of a porous border stretch with Syria.

The gunmen on the edge of the border village of al-Qasr say their mission is to protect Shiites on the Syrian side who claim their homes, villages and families have come under attack from Sunni rebels.

Hezbollah chief Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, leader of many of Lebanon's Shiites and a staunch ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, has said his group is supporting the cadres of fighters who call themselves Popular Committees.

It is confirmation that the powerful Lebanese militant group is playing a growing role in the civil war just across the border.

Syria's regime is dominated by minority Alawites—an offshoot of Shiite Islam—while the rebels fighting to overthrow Assad are mostly from the Sunni majority. Assad's major allies, Hezbollah and Iran, are both Shiite. The sectarian tensions in the civil war have spilled over to neighboring Lebanon, which has a similar ethnic divide and a long, bitter history of civil war and domination by Syria. Deadly gunbattles have broken out in Lebanon in recent months between supporters of both sides of the Syrian war.

But more broadly, Hezbollah's deepening involvement shows how the Syrian civil war is exacerbating tensions between Shiites and Sunnis around the Middle East.

Syrian rebels accuse Hezbollah of fighting alongside Assad's troops and attacking rebels from inside Lebanese territory.

In recent months, fighting has raged in and around several towns and villages inhabited by a community of some 15,000 Lebanese Shiites who have lived for decades on the Syrian side of a frontier that is not clearly demarcated in places and not fully controlled by border authorities. They are mostly Lebanese citizens, though some have dual citizenship or are Syrian.

Brotherhood members face torture charge in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—Two Muslim Brotherhood officials have been sent to trial on charges of kidnapping and torturing three men during protests in November following Islamist President Mohammed Morsi's decrees, since rescinded, that granted him near absolute powers.

The case in the Nile Delta city of Damanhour north of Cairo is the first of its kind against Morsi's Brotherhood and is likely to embarrass the group at a time it is trying to fend off opposition charges of monopolizing power in the deeply polarized country.

Mohammed Bahnasy, a lawyer for the three victims, told The Associated Press on Sunday that the case was referred to trial a day earlier. The two Brotherhood local officials—Mustafa el-Khouli and Mohammed Abdel-Radi—have not been detained.

An arrest warrant has been issued for el-Khouli, who has failed to respond to a summons for questioning, according to Bahnasy. Abdel-Radi was questioned and released pending the start of the trial, according to him and another lawyer involved in the case, Mohammed Abdel-Aziz.

The Brotherhood's chief lawyer, Abdel-Monaim Abdel-Maqsoud, said the decision to refer the two to trial was "hurried" and described the investigation as "flawed."

He told the AP defense witnesses showed up at the prosecutors' office on Saturday to testify that el-Khouli and Abdel-Radi were innocent, only to be told it was too late.

"Everything will now have to wait for the trial," he said. "I am surprised at the speed with which this has been done. We have many cases of Brotherhood victims of violence and we have not seen any of them go to trial yet," said Abdel-Maqsoud.

He confirmed that the case against the two was the first of its kind since the ouster two years ago of autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Bahnasy said the three men allegedly kidnapped and tortured were Mahmoud Ali, 17, Mohammed Mansour, 18, and Mustafa Farag, 21. He said the three were detained separately for up to five hours during clashes between supporters and opponents of Morsi at Damanhour's main square on Nov. 24.

Focus

In this Saturday, April 6, 2013 photo, Eric Martin poses for a photo with his fiancee, Rachel Cieslewicz, at their home in St. George, Utah. In late March 2013, Martin chased down an intruder to their home and held him at gunpoint with the 9-mm Smith & Wesson handgun that he keeps in his bedside night stand, until the police arrived.

AP

Gun debate revives questions about self-defense

By ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The beam from the intruder's flashlight pierced the blackness of the bedroom at 4:45 a.m., sweeping across the down comforter and into Eric Martin's eyes. Outside, the streets of his Utah subdivision lay still and silent.

But as Martin rolled to the floor, reached into the nightstand drawer and drew out his 9 mm pistol, the 46-year-old executive's mind raced with calculation: Would this man harm Martin's fiancee or her son? Was an accomplice outside waiting? What if he pulled the trigger and hit the sleeping 8-year-old across the hall?

In the weeks since the Connecticut school massacre, some of the most intense debate has swirled around how to keep guns from criminals without infringing on the ability of lawful gun owners, like Martin, to protect themselves and their families.

Indeed, protection is now the top reason gun owners cite for having a firearm, a new survey shows, a figure that has nearly doubled since 1999.

But even after years of study, there is little clarity on how, exactly, Americans use guns to protect themselves in moments of jeopardy—or how often. Researchers known for sharp disagreement on the self-defense riddle say the answers may be shifting dramatically because of a steep drop in crime, an increase in guns and state laws giving owners more leeway to wield them.

Determining the absolute value of guns for self-defense is clouded by that complex dynamic of policy, judgment and circumstance. Still, both advocates of gun rights and of gun control understand the issue's importance in shaping the debate.

"When there's a threat outside your door, the police aren't going to be there ... the guys trained to save lives aren't going to be there," said Dom Raso, a commentator for the National Rifle Association's online news channel, in a video posted recently by the gun rights group.

And even while calling for new gun laws, President Barack Obama, too, acknowledged the legitimacy of self-defense in an April 8 speech in Hartford, Conn., when he recounted a conversation with his wife, Michelle, after campaigning in rural Iowa.

"Sometimes it would be miles between farms, let alone towns," Obama said. "And she said, `You know, coming back, I can understand why somebody would want a gun for protection. If somebody drove up into the driveway and, Barack, you weren't home, the sheriff lived miles away, I might want that security.'"

With Americans split over whether guns more often save lives or jeopardize them, researchers have long parsed surveys of crime victims done in the 1990s, arguing over what the numbers mean.

But since then, crime has plummeted in the U.S. The rate of violent crimes including murder and assault fell by nearly half from 1992 to 2011, while the rate of reported property crime dropped 41 percent, data compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation show.

That drop has researchers considering the possibility, even the likelihood, that many fewer Americans are drawing firearms to protect themselves.

"I'm pretty confident that whatever the number is, it did go down ... because overall crime went down," said Gary Kleck, a Florida State University criminologist whose 1990s research, widely cited by gun rights activists, concluded that Americans drew their firearms in self-defense up to 2.5 million times a year. That translates to about 3 percent of all gun owners during the course of a single year.

But the drop in crime means there are far fewer occasions now for Americans to use guns for self-protection, Kleck said, making it likely that the number of annual self-defense usages of guns "should be about half as big now as they were back then, 20 years ago."

Even if such a drop were documented, it would still leave a scenario of relatively widespread use of guns for self-defense suggested by Kleck far at odds with research done by his critics.

The most outspoken has long been David Hemenway, director of the Harvard University Injury Control Research Center. He contends Kleck's survey vastly overinflates the number of times people use guns to defend themselves—for example, by estimating thousands during the course of break-ins, though many of those homeowners either didn't own guns or remained asleep during the crime. Kleck, in turn, says Hemenway and others depend on surveys that significantly undercount self-defense gun use.

Hemenway, also relying on 1990s surveys, concluded Americans were then wielding guns for self-defense about 200,000 times annually.

Others researchers, analyzing the federal government's National Crime Victimization Survey, say the number of times guns were drawn for self-defense was even lower, about 80,000 times a year.

But Hemenway, too, is rethinking his estimate. If declining crime was the only change, he said, it would be reasonable to expect a parallel decrease in the number of times Americans use guns to defend themselves.

"You certainly have less opportunities to use a gun in self-defense appropriately," he said. "The problem is, over long periods of time, so many other things may be changing."

Since the 1990s, 18 states have passed stand-your-ground laws. At the same time, many more states eased the ability of gun owners to legally carry concealed weapons. The number of guns Americans own has also jumped to about 300 million, although researchers say the percentage of households with guns has declined.

Today, more gun owners than ever—48 percent according to a March poll by the Pew Research Center—cite self-protection as their primary reason for having a firearm. That has nearly doubled since 1999, and now far surpasses the declining number of gun owners who say they own a firearm primarily for hunting.

The figure confirms personal security as a major concern for most Americans, reflected in attitudes about guns, said Michael Dimock, director of Pew's political polling unit.

"On both sides of this, the safety issue is front and center," he said. "For most people, this is not a casual choice. There's a sense of safety that gun owners associate with having that gun and there's a clear sense of risk that non-gun owners associate with guns." Demands for gun control have led many gun owners to point to the value firearms play in allowing Americans to protect themselves, a position Martin, the Utah homeowner, agrees with based on first-hand experience.

When a robber broke into his home in St. George before dawn in late March, he and fiancee Rachel Cieslewicz were in bed. Her son, Canyon, was asleep in a room across from their doorway.

Martin says he trained to use a gun when he was in his early 20s and has long kept one for protection. Before the break-in, he had thought carefully many times about how, precisely, he would react in such a situation.

But in the dark, gun in hand, judgment and action were instantaneous. Even with the intruder directly in front of him, Martin says he realized he could not fire because of the chance the bullet might pierce the wall and hit the sleeping 8-year-old.

"I knew I needed to protect Rachel. I knew I needed to protect Canyon," he says.

When Martin pulled back on the gun's slide to load a bullet into the chamber, the man in the doorway bolted and Martin gave chase. Seconds later they were outside, but as the robber tried to escape, he tripped and fell. Martin, taking position behind a wall, trained his gun on him and ordered him to stay down, threatening to shoot when the man moved. That's where they were when police cruisers arrived.

In the days since, scores of people, including police, have commended Martin for his cool-headed reaction. Martin and Cieslewicz say they have no doubt about the gun's self-defense value. But he acknowledges the complexity of the calculus.

"What would have happened if the guy hadn't fallen, tripped over the stuff he was stealing, and I hadn't gotten him pinned down?" he said. "Or if he'd run down the street 50 feet in front of me," and Martin had opened fire?

"Is that self-defense or is that me just trying to let off a little bit of steam at that point? That changes the whole dynamic of everything."

Multiplying that uncertainty by the many confrontations involving a gun where the roles of the players are less clear helps explain researchers' disagreement about the use of gun play in self-defense.

Kleck, of Florida State, said that when people are surveyed correctly, the vast majority only disclose clear-cut incidents where they were in the right and guns were used correctly to protect their own and their families' lives.

But Hemenway, the Harvard researcher, says many of the incidents people characterize as self-defense are dubious.

"We expected pretty brave and wonderful things," he says, about a 1990s survey of gun owners. "But most of the things that were presented (as self-defense) were little more than escalating arguments. It wasn't like this is a good guy and this is a bad guy. It's two people who got into an argument and somebody drew a gun."

One much-debated self-defense claim is in the February 2012 death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old killed in a Florida subdivision by a neighborhood watch captain.

But many other incidents, highlighting the role of a gun and quick thinking in protecting lives, don't get the attention they deserve, said Daniel Terrill, an editor of Guns.com. The Winnetka, Ill.-based website regularly publishes accounts of self-defense.

Then there are reports of gun usage in which people seem either to have used questionable judgment or sought out a dispute—cases that elicit fierce discussion among gun owners on the site.

"It's a debate piece for them and ... they will go over that ad nauseum, saying it was justified or it wasn't justified. So you find a lot of these stories, actually, are kind of morally gray," Terrill said. The uncertainty reflects both the complexity of decision-making involved in gun use, as well the many unknown circumstances that led to a confrontation in the first place, he said.

The increased focus by gun owners on self-defense while the threat of crime decreases reflects a long-standing disconnect in public perceptions of violent crime, said Mark Warr, a University of Texas criminologist.

"Americans don't know that the crime rate has been going down," said Warr, noting that public perception is shaped by television crime dramas and news reports focusing on the most violent offenses. "What happens is that people watch this dangerous image of the world and they buy into the idea that the world is a really, really dangerous place."

Public fears spiked in the 1960s in response to a substantial increase in crime, reflected in increased purchases of guns, homes in gated subdivisions and security systems, he said, and concern about crime has never eased to pre-1960s levels, even though crime has steadily declined.

But trying to figure out how those safety concerns, attitudes regarding gun ownership, changes in law and other factors are affecting the use of guns for self-defense remains difficult.

David McDowall, a professor in the school of criminal justice at the University at Albany, State University of New York, said that given all the changes in law and gun ownership, it is quite possible that a greater proportion of people now draw firearms in self-defense.

"I think that's really the interesting question," he said.

And gun owners point out that the decision to draw a weapon in self-defense when confronted by an intruder makes the abstracts studied by researchers and policymakers all too real. To Cieslewicz, it comes down to recalling her fears for her son's life as a stranger loomed in her bedroom doorway.

"It was," she said, "an absolute moment of terror."

Overdrive

Santa Fe reflects Hyundai's climb to legitimacy

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Parents aren't supposed to pick favorites, but it's clear Hyundai has a soft spot for its Santa Fe.

To hear the Korean automaker tell it, the crossover played a key role in Hyundai's transformation from maker of meek little econoboxes with shoddy reliability to a brand that rivals the best from Honda and Toyota.

The third generation of the Santa Fe, rolling into dealerships now, demonstrates how far the company has come. This handsomely redesigned crossover is packed with utility and comes in two sizes: a five-passenger version and a seven-passenger model.

The larger Santa Fe offers a V-6 engine and a longer wheelbase and starts at $28,350. The smaller model, now called the Santa Fe Sport, starts at $24,450 and comes with either a four-cylinder engine or an optional (and regrettable) turbocharged four-cylinder.

The revisions to the Santa Fe lineup cap off a decade-long overhaul of Hyundai's entire lineup. Though it took several generations for each vehicle, the effort has proved a stunning success.

Like Hyundai itself, the Santa Fe has come a long way since its humble—and homely—debut.

The 2013 Santa Fe and Santa Fe Sport models look identical, save for differing lengths and slightly different passenger doors. Their upscale, bold design is a big improvement over the awkward, bug-eyed look of the original Santa Fe in 2001.

The interiors are also nearly identical, save for a third row of seats on the larger Santa Fe. This bigger Hyundai replaces the Veracruz and rides on a wheelbase about 4 inches longer than the Sport, and its overall length is 8.5 inches longer. The Santa Fe GLS holds seven people; the Santa Fe Limited has two captain's chairs in the middle row for a total capacity of six people. The rear seats fold flat when not in use.

Both the smaller Sport model and the seven-passenger version include some clever use of space.

HYUNDAI/MCT

The 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport is the five-passenger version of the redesigned crossover.

The rear seats on the Sport and middle seats on the GLS are split into three sections, and each folds separately. The retractable cargo cover on all models stores under the floor of the cargo area when not in use—helpful for anyone who's lost theirs to a messy garage.

And on models with the Leather and Premium package, the middle row of seats slide fore and aft. A growing trend in minivans, this feature enables parents to move forward a cranky child for easy pacifier or juice box application.

The Santa Fe's cabin is nicely bolted together, the dashboard thoughtfully laid out. Faux-wood trim adds a bit of character that's lacking in other Hyundai interiors.

As with the number of seats, the two models diverge when it comes to their powertrains.

The base Sport—which competes against Chevy Equinox, Ford Edge and Toyota Venza—comes with a perfectly capable direct-injected, 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine. It makes 190 horsepower and 181 pound-feet of torque and pushes power to the front wheels via a smooth six-speed automatic transmission. Hyundai made the engine's job easier by using plenty of high-strength steel, which dropped about 260 pounds from the weight of the Santa Fe.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Hyundai Santa Fe And Santa Fe Sport:

- **Vehicle type:** 4-door, five- or seven-passenger crossover SUV
- **Powertrain:** Santa Fe Sport: 2.4-liter four cylinder engine or 2.0-liter turbocharged four cylinder engine; Santa Fe: 3.3-liter V-6. front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive on either
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic
- **Horsepower:** Santa Fe Sport base: 190; Santa Fe Sport Turbo: 264; Santa Fe: 290
- **Torque:** Santa Fe Sport base: 181; Santa Fe Sport Turbo: 269; Santa Fe: 252
- Zero to 60 mph: Santa Fe Sport FWD: 9.3 seconds; Santa Fe Sport Turbo AWD: 9.1 seconds, according to Motor Trend
- **EPA fuel economy:** Santa Fe Sport: 21/29 mpg city/highway; Sport Turbo: 20/27 mpg city/highway; Santa Fe V-6: 18/25 mpg city/highway
- **Base price, excluding destination charge:** $24,450 for Santa Fe Sport, $28,350 for Santa Fe
- **Times' take:** A leader in Hyundai's quest for legitimacy
- **Highs:** Handsome exterior design, impressive interior construction
- **Lows:** Some engine choices are lacking; no price advantage anymore

Hyundai says this model is estimated to get 21 mpg in the city and 29 mpg on the highway. In our week of testing this model, we averaged 23 mpg. All-wheel-drive adds $1,750 to the sticker price, and drops fuel economy down to 20 mpg in the city and 26 mpg on the highway.

Standard gear on the Sport includes alloy wheels, keyless entry, a stereo system with Sirius satellite radio and Bluetooth, seven air bags, and traction and stability control. If that's not enough spice for your quesadilla, Hyundai also offers the more upmarket turbocharged Sport. A drop from 29 mpg to 27 mpg on the highway seems reasonable, especially when it's the result of 264 total horsepower from this 2.0-liter engine.

Reasonable until you get the turbo engine on the road. If it's faster, it doesn't feel like it. Dead spots in the power curve make you wonder if something crawled into the fuel line.

Compounding this is a six-speed automatic transmission that hunts excessively for the right gear and lags when a quick downshift is needed. Abrupt shifts also cause occupants' heads to bob slightly with each new gear.

Our advice: Forget the turbo. The better-executed base model has enough power for less money.

Buyers who step up to the larger Santa Fe get a 3.3-liter, direct-injected V-6 that makes 290 horsepower and 252 pound-feet of torque. Like its little brother, the Santa Fe is front-wheel-drive with optional AWD. A six-speed automatic transmission is your only gearbox option.

This Santa Fe's peers include the Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander, Nissan Pathfinder and Mazda CX-9. Though the Santa Fe is the lightest of these competitors and has the most horsepower, you can't tell from the driver's seat. The gearbox and the engine feel a bit sluggish as they work to get you onto the highway or from a stop.

But daily driving in both Sante Fe models is pleasant; they handle well for crossovers and are quiet and comfortable on the road. Hyundai even went so far as to include on all models a driver-selectable steering system, which gives three different levels of steering resistance. Unfortunately, all three are variations of numb. This being a Hyundai, practically the only thing without a warranty are the warranties. There's a new vehicle warranty, powertrain warranty, anti-perforation warranty on the body, even a California emissions warranty. All of this is free, plus five years of roadside assistance.

But Hyundai no longer needs warranties to convince consumers it can play in the same league as Toyota and Honda. Nor does it need to discount its vehicles to sell them. A loaded Santa Fe Sport AWD Turbo can approach $36,000, and the larger Santa Fe AWD tops out around $39,000. These models come with features including heated leather seats, a heated steering wheel, touch-screen navigation system, back-up camera and a panoramic sunroof. The prices are certainly competitive, but they aren't the bargain-basement offerings from Hyundai's early days in the U.S. market.

If the Santa Fe and Santa Fe Sport are any indication, Hyundai has evolved to a point where it is known not only as a rival to established brands, but an equal.

No wonder Hyundai likes its Santa Fe.

Security system went quiet after visit to auto shop

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2000 Lexus 300 ES that I recently put in the shop to have the timing belt and water pump replaced. The car runs great, but the horn on my security system is no longer audible when I lock and unlock the car. It locks and unlocks properly, but there is just no beeping sound. Before I put the car in the shop, it worked just fine. My mechanic checked the relay, but can't figure it out. I miss the convenience of hearing the car lock and unlock, and hope you can help me out.

ANSWER: Best I can tell by researching this issue online, there is a volume control for the door lock/unlock horn mounted under the dash near the center console. Perhaps this got "unadjusted" during the vehicle's service.

Since it's very likely the technician disconnected the battery while working under the hood, the keyless entry system may need reprogramming. Apparently Toyota/Lexus service tools can provide customer customization, including turning on or off the remote door lock horn. Since your keyless remote transmitter still operates the door locks properly, this may be the answer.

And following the KISS principle of keeping it simple, check the fuse for this horn in the engine compartment junction block. This fuse provides power to the theft-deterrent electronic control unit, or ECU.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Two years ago I bought a 2003 Jeep Liberty Limited with automatic transmission that had 125,000 miles at the time of purchase and now has 141,000 miles. Recently I received advice not to change the transmission fluid and filter in the Jeep. I have always done this service with other vehicles at the 25,000-mile mark or after two years. I have checked the levels and fluid color and they appear OK. Why would the mechanic advise me not to do the transmission maintenance? He said that if I did the fluid change, it would cause issues with the transmission. Is he right, or is there another solution?

A: In today's world of sealed, no dipstick, virtually maintenance-free automatic transmissions, the transmission fluid and filter are easily serviceable in your Jeep. Not only is there a dipstick under the hood to allow checks of the fluid level and condition, but the transmission oil pan is removable to replace the fluid and filter.

The maintenance recommendations for your vehicle include changing the transmission fluid and filter at 100,000-mile intervals under "normal" conditions, but more frequent changes at 30,000-mile intervals under "severe" operating conditions.

I suspect your mechanic is assuming that the transmission fluid has never been changed in your vehicle. If that's true, oxidation of the original automatic transmission fluid, or ATF, after nearly 150,000 miles could lead to sludge and varnish deposits that, if loosened or dissolved by the fresh ATF, could conceivably restrict hydraulic passages or components and cause potential problems or failure.

So, what to do? Can you research the vehicle's service records through a Jeep dealership? You might be able to determine whether or not the transmission has ever been serviced. If it has not and you plan to keep the vehicle, you have one of two options:

1) Add half a can of SeaFoam Trans Tune to the transmission, drive the vehicle for a week or so, and then have a complete flush, refill and new filter to clean, flush and totally exchange all the old fluid for new, or

2) Do nothing as your technician suggested and hope for the best.

Obviously, if the transmission has been serviced in the past, continue to service it according to the factory maintenance schedule.

Personally, I'd go for the complete flush, fill and filter.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 1998 Ford Ranger with 135,000 miles that needs a fuel pressure regulator. I have been told that this part is obsolete and not available in my area. Can you tell me where and how to find it?

A: I found quality aftermarket fuel pressure regulators for the 3-liter and 4-liter V-6 from $50 to $100 online.

Life & Style

Fifty Shades' makes US list of challenged books

NEW YORK (AP)—Here's a list "Fifty Shades of Grey" was destined to make: The books most likely to be removed from school and library shelves in the U.S.

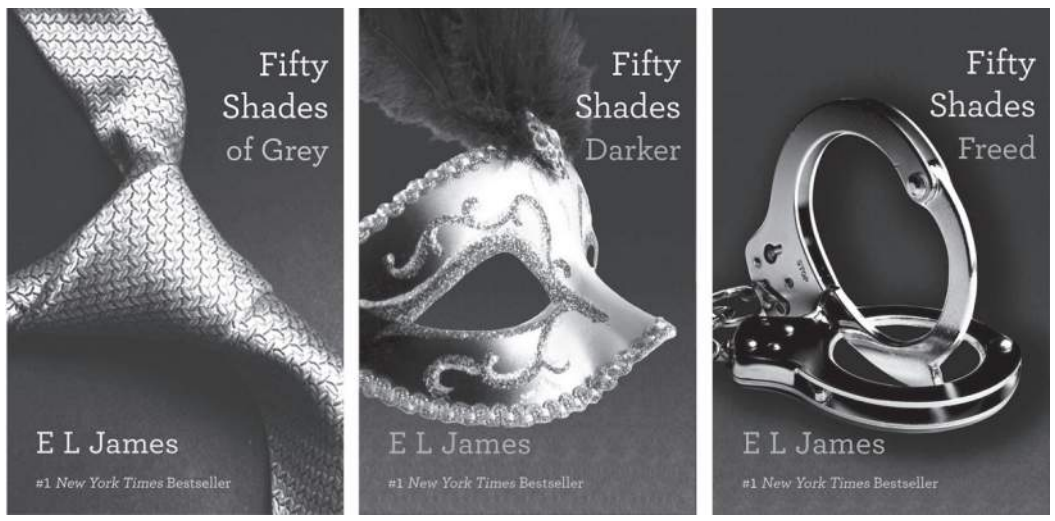
On Monday, E L James' multimillion selling erotic trilogy placed No. 4 on the American Library Association's annual study of "challenged books," works subject to complaints from parents, educators, and other members of the public. The objections: Offensive language, and, of course, graphic sexual content.

No. 1 was not a story of the bedroom but the bathroom, Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" books (Offensive language, unsuited for age group), followed by Sherman Alexie's prize-winning "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" (Offensive language, racism, sexually explicit), and Jay Asher's "Thirteen Reasons Why" (Drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, suicide). Also on the list, at No. 10, Nobel laureate Toni Morrison's "Beloved" (Sexually explicit, religious viewpoint, violence).

"It's pretty exciting to be on a list that frequently features Mark Twain, Harper Lee, and Maya Angelou," Pilkey said in a statement. "But I worry that some parents might see this list and discourage their kids from reading 'Captain Underpants,' even though they have not had a chance to read the books themselves."

The library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom defines a challenge as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that a book or other material be restricted or removed because of its content or appropriateness." The office received 464 challenges last year, a jump of more 25 percent from 2011, but still low compared to the 1980s and '90s. Exact numbers, including how many books were actually pulled, are hard to calculate. The association has long believed that for every complaint registered, 4-5 go unreported by libraries, and that some librarians may restrict access in anticipation of objections.

"One reason we think the number went up in 2012 is that we made challenges easier to report by including a portal on our Web page," said Barbara M. Jones, director of the OIF.



AP

This file combo made of book cover images provided by Vintage Books shows the "Fifty Shades of Grey" trilogy by best-selling author E L James.

The challenged books list was included in the library association's annual "State of the Libraries" report (http://tinyurl.com/salr2013), which examines how libraries are responding to budget cuts and the financial advice they offer for patrons during hard economic times.

The "Fifty Shades" books were released last spring, and public libraries in Georgia, Florida and elsewhere soon pulled the racy romance trilogy or decided not to order the books, saying they were too steamy or too poorly written. Local library representatives at the time denounced the novels as "semi-pornographic" and unfit for "community standards."

But the list also included some works highly regarded in the literary community: Morrison's "Beloved," winner of the Pulitzer Prize; Alexie's novel, a National Book Award winner; and a book club favorite, Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" (Homosexuality, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit). Young adult star John Green was on, for "Looking for Alaska" (Offensive language, sexually explicit), along with perennial chart-maker "And Tango Makes Three," by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, the story of two male penguins who raise a baby penguin. Also on the list were Alvin Schwartz's "Scary Stories" (unsuited for age group) and Jeanette Wells' memoir "The Glass Castle." (Offensive language, sexually explicit).

The "Captain Underpants" books, which Green said he's currently reading to his 3-year-old son, have long been debated among parents and educators. Some praise the books because they encourage boys to read, others criticize them for their toilet humor and irreverent attitude; the title character is a superhero devised by two young students about their grouchy principal, Mr. Krupp.

"I don't see these books as encouraging disrespect for authority. Perhaps they demonstrate the value of questioning authority," Pilkey said. "Some of the authority figures in the Captain Underpants books are villains. They are bullies and they do vicious things."

Pilkey said his characters are based in part on teachers and principals he had—some of whom were villains who got away with it because they were authority figures.

"None of the children in my school, including me, thought to question them," he said. "So, I do feel there is real value in showing kids that not all authority figures are good or kind or honorable."

Challenged books are a measure of trouble, but also a measure of popularity, whether as a cause or an effect. Some famous entries from recent years have dropped off the top 10, likely a sign of reduced attention overall: J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books, Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series, Suzanne Collins' "Hunger Games" trilogy.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Candilaria Atalig Agulto

November 08, 1940 – April 11, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: †Damiano Masga Atalig
†Maria Cruz Atalig
Parents-in-Law: †Juan Concepcion Agulto
†Maria Santos Agulto
Husband: †Antonio Mettao Reyes
†Joaquin Santos Agulto (Akin Pai)
Daughter: †Maria Rosario A. Reyes
Granddaughter: †Maria Candilissa R. Agulto

Brothers and In-Laws:
†Antonio C. Atalig, †Gonzalo C. Atalig, †Perfirio C. Atalig, †Felis S. Agulto, †Jose S. Agulto, †Pedro S. Agulto, †Cisto Mendiola, †Leonardo M. Wania, †Francisca A. Mendiola, †Carmen Cepeda Atalig

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: **Michael** and Brenda Angui Reyes
Antonio and Emiliana Mettao Reyes
Mathew A. Agulto and Jenebre Borja
Joseph and Jordan Reyes Agulto
John A. Agulto and Marian T. Castro
Frankie and Carla Smith Agulto

Brother, Sisters and In-Laws:
Jesus C. Atalig
Lucia C. Atalig and Children/Grandchildren
Consolacion C. Atalig and Children/Grandchildren
Lourdes C. Atalig and Juan B. Matagolai and Children/Grandchildren
Ursula A. and Nick Kapileo and Children/Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren
Jesusa A. Palacios and Children/Grandchildren
Rosa Reyes Agulto
MaryJane Taitano

She will also be missed by her Grandchildren, Great Grandson, numerous cousins, families and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each morning at 06:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to Kristo Rai Church. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

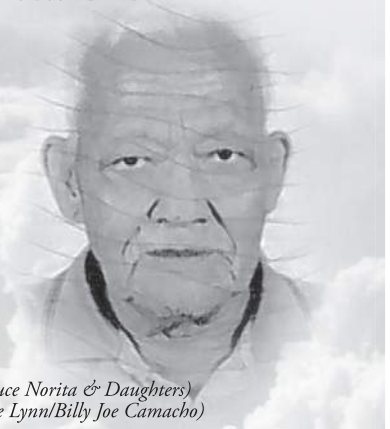
PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

The Family

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Jose Miyasaki Babauta

October 31, 1931 – April 11, 2013



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents: *†Juan Dela Cruz Babauta*
†Maria Miyasaki Babauta
Parents-in-Law: *†Jose Cabrera Lizama*
†Consalacion Castro Lizama
Wife: *†Maria Lizama Babauta*
Sons: *†Felipe Lizama Babauta*
†George Lizama Babauta
Granddaughter: *†Maria Lani T. Babauta*

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Common-law Wife: ***Lilybeth Andrade***
Children: ***Joseph C.*** *and Pilar Q. Lizama (Shirley Jean L./Bruce Norita & Daughters) (Thaddeus Jude/Welma Ann Lizama & Sons)(Janine Lynn/Billy Joe Camacho) (Janica Victoria/Lamarc)*
Ricardo L. *and Magdalena C. Babauta (Ryan T. Babauta)(Tissa T. Babauta & children) (Sorena Patrice C/Eric Cabrera & daughters)(Ricky Joshua C. Babauta/Shawna T. Chong) (Rilaena Carmelle C. Babauta)*
Francisco L. Babauta *(Maria M/Michael M. Takai & daughters)*
Leonardo L. *and Bernadita DLC. Babauta (Anthony Joseph/Stephanie Hocog & daughter) (Bernard Joseph DLC. Babauta)(Jazmin Patricial/Angelo Marchadesch & daughter)*
Gregorio L. Babauta *(Janice Y. Babauta)(Jose Miyasaki Babauta II)*
Ray Anthony L. Babauta *(Phillip Joseph Camacho)(Ray Anthony L. Babauta, Jr.)*
Editha B. and Robert *Brigman (Michael Scott/Chemi Babauta & children) (Marie Vernette Brigman)*
Hanaivy A. Babauta *and Joe Miller*

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
*†**Manuel M.** and Ana B. Babauta and Children*
*†**Santiago M.** and Carmen N. Babauta and Children*
*†**Dionico M.** and Dolores D. Babauta and Children*
*†**Jesus M.** and Petra R. Babauta and Children*
*†**Miguel M.** and Anuncia Q. Babauta and Children*
Luisa B. *and †Victorino S. Castro and Children*
Soledad B. *and Felix Sasamoto and Children*
Maria B. *and Joaquin C. Duenas and Children*
†Vicente B. and Magdalena C. Lizama and Children
†Francisco C. and Albina G. Lizama and Children
†Antonio C. and Emiliana T. Lizama and Children
Jesus C. and Shelly Lizama and Children
Juan C. and Primitiva Lizama and Children

He is additionally survived by numerous Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, Godchildren, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated each evening at 06:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m. to San Roque Church. Responso services will be at 08:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

The Family

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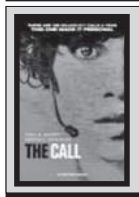
Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The happily-married parents of a newborn boy seek the assistance of paranormal investigators in riding their home of evil in this installment of the popular spoof series produced and written by David Zucker (Airplane!, The Naked Gun), and directed by Malcolm D. Lee} (Undercover Brother). Ballet dancer Jody (Ashley Tisdale) and ape researcher Dan have just become the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy when the spooky happenings in their home start causing problems in the workplace as well. With a mischievous demon making their lives unbearable, the miserable couple plants cameras in every corner of their house, and recruit some supernatural experts to help evict the diabolical imp.



The Call

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

When a veteran 911 operator takes a life-altering call from a teenage girl who has just been abducted, she realizes that she must confront a killer from her past in order to save the girl's life.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Evil Dead

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Jessica Lucas, Liz Blackmore
Genre: Horror • Rated R

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

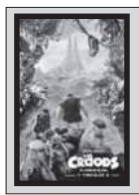
Friday			7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25		7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25		7:25	
Monday thru Thursday			7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday		4:25		
Saturday		4:25		
Sunday		4:25		
Monday thru Thursday		4:25		

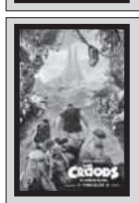
Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



The Croods 3D

Friday			7:15	
Saturday	1:15		7:15	
Sunday	1:15		7:15	
Monday thru Thursday			7:15	

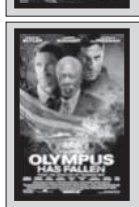
Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



The Croods 2D

Friday		4:15		9:30
Saturday		4:15		9:30
Sunday		4:15		
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15		

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

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'The Avengers' takes top prize at MTV Movie Awards

AP

Host Rebel Wilson and the cast of "Pitch Perfect" perform onstage at the MTV Movie Awards in Sony Pictures Studio Lot in Culver City, Calif., on Sunday April 14, 2013.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With a cast of superheroes and villains, "The Avengers" beat out its competitors to become the big winner at the MTV Movie Awards.

The action romp won three awards Sunday, including the top prize, movie of the year.

"What's the opposite of humbled? We're Biebered to be standing here," said "Avengers" writer-director Joss Whedon as he accepted the final golden popcorn trophy. "This is the award that means the most to me. I am so grateful and very excited for 2015; we're going to bring you 'Avengers 2.'"

"The Avengers" also won best fight and best villain for actor Tom Hiddleston.

Bradley Cooper and show host Rebel Wilson were each double winners. Cooper won the first prize of the night for his performance in "Silver Linings Playbook" and returned to the stage to accept best kiss honors for his smooch with co-star Jennifer Lawrence in that film.

Lawrence, who won the Oscar for her role in "Playbook," was also a double winner, though she wasn't on hand. In addition to the kiss award, she won the golden popcorn for her performance.

Jamie Foxx was a double winner, too. He shared the best WTF moment award with Samuel L. Jackson for their scenes together in "Django Unchained," and later thanked his daughter, parents and siblings in the audience as he accepted the Generation Award for his career in film.

Foxx stars in June's "White House Down."

Wilson, who opened and closed the show wearing Iron Man-style armor, won breakthrough performance for her work in "Pitch Perfect" and shared in the film's award for best musical moment. Its stars, including Brittany Snow and Skylar Astin, opened the show with a mash-up medley.

Other musical acts were Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Selena Gomez, who debuted her new song, "Come and Get It," with a Bollywood-inspired performance.

The MTV Movie Awards are as much about the anticipated movies of the upcoming summer season as they are about the finest films of last year. Fans vote online for the winners in traditional and irreverent categories such as best fight, best kiss and best shirtless performance.

"Twilight" heartthrob Taylor Lautner won the shirtless award.

The show also included new footage from next month's "Iron Man 3" and the world premiere of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" trailer, introduced by one of its stars, Liam Hemsworth.

Stars from other summer films— including Chris Pine, Zoe Saldana and Zachary Quinto from the "Star Trek" sequel and Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez from the "Fast & Furious" franchise—appeared as presenters during the ceremony.

Other presenters included Brad Pitt, Chris Rock, Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, Zac Efron, Snoop Dogg/Lion and Kim Kardashian.

Hollywood has increasingly used the fan-driven MTV Movie Awards as a platform to promote its summer product. This year, the show was moved up from June to April to incorporate the entire blockbuster season, which begins in early May.

Emma Watson, a star of this summer's "The Bling Ring," received the Trailblazer Award.

Will Ferrell wore a three-piece suit covered in dollar bills to accept the Comedic Genius Award from "Game of Thrones" star Peter Dinklage.

"For those of you sitting here tonight who don't think I'm funny, I'll be happy to fight you in the parking lot after the show," said Ferrell, who is currently at work on "Anchorman 2," slated for release later this year.

Bieber criticized for Anne Frank comment

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Justin Bieber wrote an entry into a guestbook at the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam, saying he hoped the Jewish teenager who died in a Nazi concentration camp "would have been a Belieber"—or fan of his—if history were different.

The message triggered a flood of comments on the museum's Facebook page Sunday, with many criticizing the 19-year-old Canadian pop star for writing something they perceive to be insensitive.

Calls made and emails sent to Bieber's publicist and agent in Los Angeles weren't immediately returned.

Museum spokeswoman Maatje Mostart confirmed that Bieber visited Friday evening. She said the museum was happy to have received Bieber and didn't see anything offensive in his remarks.

Anne Frank hid with her family in a small apartment above a warehouse during the Nazi occupation of World War II. Her family was caught and deported, and Anne died of typhus in Bergen-Belsen in 1945.

The diary she kept in hiding was recovered and published after the war, and has become the most widely read document to emerge from the Holocaust.

Bieber's whole note read: "Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a Belieber."

Mostart said Bieber called ahead and was given a guided tour.

Bieber's remarks led to criticism from some quarters, as a Facebook response insulting Bieber received more than 1,000 "likes"—slightly more than the museum's original post about the incident.

Meanwhile on Twitter, posts mocking Bieber and imagining that he had visited the museum and walked away thinking only of himself began circulating Sunday, though the message is open to interpretation.

Some of Bieber's 37 million followers also tweeted messages of support. Others in his fan base—which is heavily weighted toward young girls—tweeted that they didn't know who Anne Frank was.

Frank was 13 years old when she began keeping her diary in 1942. Like many teenage girls, she made a collage of the celebrities of her day—movie stars, dancers, and royalty—and kept it on her bedroom wall.

"Our little room looked very bare at first with nothing on the walls; but thanks to Daddy who had brought my film-star collection and picture postcards ... with the aid of a paste pot and brush, I have transformed the walls into one gigantic picture," she wrote on July 11, 1942, just days after going into hiding. "This makes it look much more cheerful."

Many of those pictures can still be seen on the walls of the museum Bieber visited Friday.

Bieber has had a tough few weeks in Europe. He had to leave a monkey in quarantine after landing in Germany without the necessary papers for the animal. Before that, the 19-year-old singer had a trying stay in London. The star struggled with his breathing and fainted backstage at a show, was taken to a hospital and then was caught on camera clashing with a paparazzo. Days earlier, he was booed by his fans when he showed up late to a concert.

He performed in Arnhem, Netherlands, on Saturday night, and will next perform three nights in Oslo, Norway.

'42' scores at home, Cruise dominates overseas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Baseball has scored a rare hit in Hollywood, while another American institution—Tom Cruise—has delivered his latest hit overseas.

The Jackie Robinson tale "42"—about the first black player in Major League Baseball—took in $27.3 million to claim the weekend box-office championship domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Robinson film has yet to open overseas, where the sport is a harder sell. But Cruise knocked it out of the park with a $61.1 million international launch in 52 countries for his science-fiction thriller "Oblivion."

That bodes well for the domestic debut of "Oblivion" next Friday. The film stars Cruise as a workman on a devastated future Earth who lands in a battle with aliens.

If "Oblivion" packs in comparable domestic crowds, it will help maintain the action-star momentum Cruise regained with 2011's "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol." That return to box-office luster came after some fitful years that followed odd turns in his personal life, culminating with the breakup of his marriage to Katie Holmes last year.

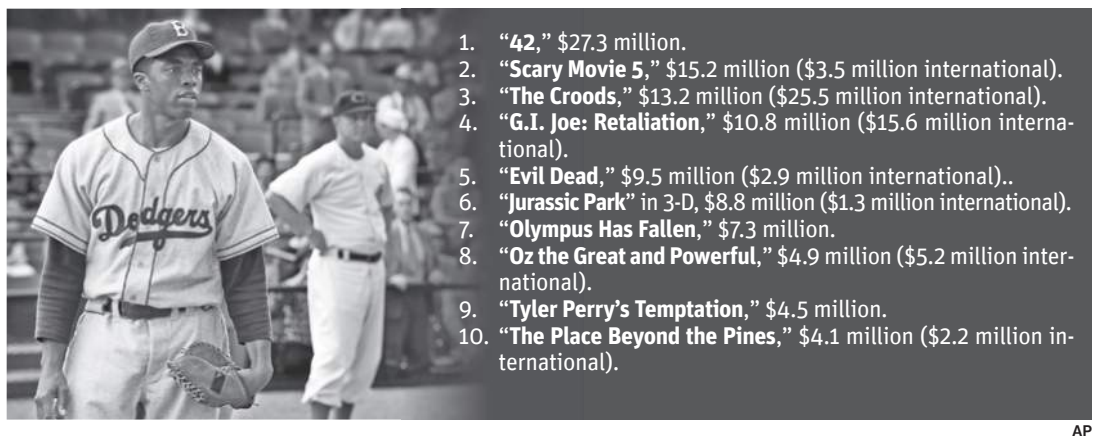
Released by Warner Bros., "42" easily beat the domestic start of an established franchise in "Scary Movie 5." The Weinstein Co. sequel opened in second-place with $15.2 million, the smallest debut for the horror-comedy series.

Three of the previous four "Scary Movie" installments had debuts of $40 million or more.

On the other hand, "42" outdid the usual expectations for baseball movies, which usually do modest business at best. Box-office trackers had expected "42" to pull in less than $20 million.

The previous weekend's top draw, Sony's horror remake "Evil Dead," tumbled to No. 5 with $9.5 million, raising its domestic haul to $41.5 million.

In limited release, director Terrence Malick's drama "To the Wonder" had a modest start, taking in $130,000 in 18 theaters for an average of $7,222 a cinema. That compares to a $9,074 average in 3,003 theaters for "42."



1. **"42,"** $27.3 million.
2. **"Scary Movie 5,"** $15.2 million ($3.5 million international).
3. **"The Croods,"** $13.2 million ($25.5 million international).
4. **"G.I. Joe: Retaliation,"** $10.8 million ($15.6 million international).
5. **"Evil Dead,"** $9.5 million ($2.9 million international)..
6. **"Jurassic Park"** in 3-D, $8.8 million ($1.3 million international).
7. **"Olympus Has Fallen,"** $7.3 million.
8. **"Oz the Great and Powerful,"** $4.9 million ($5.2 million international).
9. **"Tyler Perry's Temptation,"** $4.5 million.
10. **"The Place Beyond the Pines,"** $4.1 million ($2.2 million international).

AP

This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Chadwick Boseman as Jackie Robinson in a scene from "42," by writer-director Brian Helgeland.

NY woman charged with stalking Hugh Jackman

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a hair-raising experience for actor Hugh Jackman at a New York City gym.

Radio station 1010 WINS says Jackman was working out in a gym Saturday morning in Manhattan's West Village neighborhood when a woman rushed in, crying and shouting that she loved him.

Jackman

The "X-Men" star told the radio station on Sunday that the run-in was frightening.

Police say 47-year-old Kathleen Thurston pulled out a razor filled with hair and threw it at him, then fled and was arrested several blocks from the gym. Jackman wasn't hurt.

Thurston is charged with stalking and awaits arraignment. It's unclear whether she has a lawyer.

Police say she has gone near the victim and his family before.

Jenna Bush Hager gives birth to 1st child, Mila

DALLAS (AP)—Former President George W. Bush has become a grandfather.

His twin daughter Jenna Bush Hager (HAY'-gur) gave birth to her first child, a daughter, on Saturday night in New York City.

The former president announced the birth in a statement Sunday. The baby's name is Margaret Laura "Mila" (MEE'-luh) Hager.

Jenna Bush Hager is a contributing correspondent for the "Today" show. She's married to Henry Hager. The former president says the baby was named for her grandmothers.

AP

This April 4, 2013 file photo shows married musicians Beyonce, left, and rapper Jay-Z as they tour Old Havana, Cuba.

Rubio: Beyonce trip to Cuba 'hypocritical'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Marco Rubio says entertainers Beyonce and Jay-Z missed a chance while in Cuba to see firsthand the effects of political oppression.

The Republican lawmaker from Florida calls their recent trip "hypocritical" and he takes issue with the U.S. government's approval of the visit as a cultural mission.

Beyonce and Jay-Z marked their wedding anniversary in Havana last week.

U.S. citizens aren't allowed to travel to Cuba for mere tourism, though they can obtain licenses for academic, religious, journalistic or cultural exchange trips. These people-to-people licenses were reinstated under the Obama administration.

Rubio, a Cuban-American, says such trips provide money to the Castro government to oppress the Cuban people.

Rubio discussed the trip during interviews Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet the Press."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Comedian Kevin Hart arrested on suspicion of DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say comedian Kevin Hart was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving after his black Mercedes nearly collided with a tanker trunk on a Southern California freeway. California Highway Patrol Officer Ed Jacobs says Hart appeared intoxicated when he was pulled over before dawn Sunday on Highway 101 in Los Angeles. Hart failed a field sobriety test and was booked for misdemeanor DUI. He was released Sunday afternoon after payment of a $5,000 bond. Jacobs says the Mercedes was being driven erratically at over 90 mph and nearly slammed into a gas tanker. A female passenger in Hart's car was sent home in a taxi. Hart starred in the 2011 stand-up special "Laugh At My Pain" and has appeared in TV's "Undeclared" and in several movies. A call to a spokesperson for Hart was not immediately returned.

Cold War' takes home top Hong Kong Film Awards

HONG KONG (AP)—Cop thriller "Cold War" got a red-hot reception at the Hong Kong Film Awards. The film starring Aaron Kwok and Tony Leung Ka Fai was named best film and overall won nine trophies out of its 12 nominations. Detective film "The Bullet Vanishes" also had 12 nominations but went home empty-handed Saturday night. Leung won his fourth best actor trophy. He said he wanted to share the award with "Cold War" producer Bill Kong, who "single-handedly made the film possible." Miriam Yeung claimed her first best actress award for "Love in the Buff." She admitted backstage she had been nervous accepting the trophy and forgot to thank her co-star Shawn Yue while on stage. Yeung praised him for an excellent performance that helped her get into character.

Friend's celebration makes woman's birthday unhappy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was raised that a person's birthday is his or her day to do whatever he or she wants, but my wishes are being ignored by a close friend I'll call Wade.

For the last 10 years I have ignored my birthday and tried to avoid all celebrations. I'll take a vacation alone and have a great time. My family understands how I feel and gives me no grief.

I met Wade five years ago. He's a co-worker who has become a good friend. Wade has made it his goal in life to make me celebrate my birthday. I have tried being nice about the presents and even a surprise birthday party one year, but I really prefer to be left alone. I never told him my birth date. He had access to HR records and found out on his own.

He says I am "rude" for not letting him celebrate my birthday. Other than this issue, he's a great guy. Advice, Abby?

NON-OBSERVANT IN FLORIDA

DEAR NON-OBSERVANT: Wade may be a "great guy," but he appears to be insensitive when it comes to respecting the feelings of others. Before your next birthday, "remind" him that you prefer not to celebrate or acknowledge it. A good friend should listen and respect the other person's wishes instead of trying to impose his or her will, and don't be shy about saying so.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am one of four sisters. Two of my sisters, their husbands and I want to plan a trip to Italy. We do not want to include our fourth sister and her husband. None of us like him or can forgive how he abused her in the past. For her sake, we tolerate him at family gatherings and holidays, but none of us want to be with him for an extended period. We also don't think his health would allow him to do a lot of the things we want to do on this vacation.

How do we plan this trip while excluding our sister and her husband without hurting her feelings or causing a big family blowup? Should we just not mention it? Or should we tell her she's invited but not her husband? Please advise.

SIS IN A PICKLE

DEAR SIS: Secrets like this have a way of getting out. It might be a slip of the tongue by one of your sisters or their husbands, or some other relative who knows about the trip.

Surely your sister knows how you all feel about her husband, so it won't be a shock if you tell her she is invited but he is not. Under the circumstances I doubt if she will join you, and there will probably be hurt feelings. But sneaking this past her would be like trying to smuggle dawn past a rooster, and I don't think it would be long before she finds out anyway.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for nine years. I worked until 2010, and then quit to be a stay-at-home mom to our two small children.

Because I no longer work, I watch what I spend, but my husband never lets me forget that he is the wage earner. When I want to spend money he always says, "What's in it for me?" or, "What do I get?" I feel like this degrades me. Why does he do this to me?

STAY-AT-HOME MOM IN GEORGIA

DEAR STAY-AT-HOME MOM: Your husband may say it because he feels stressed or resentful that he is the sole wage earner now. The first time it happened you should have responded that "what's in it for him" is that his children have a full-time mother, which the majority of children today don't have, and "what he gets" out of it are offspring who have a mother rather than a caregiver raising them.

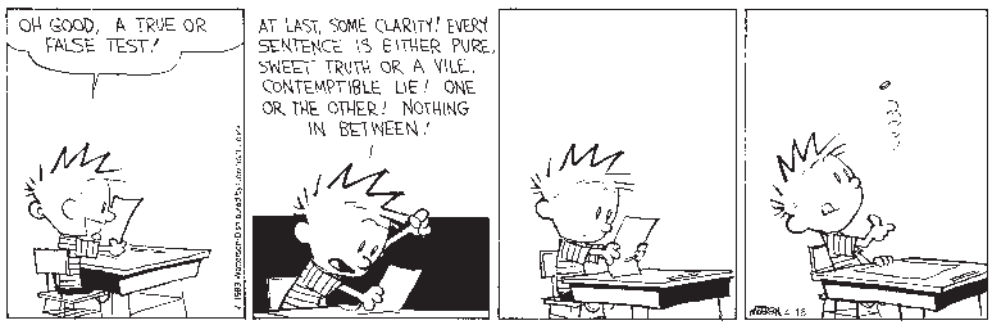
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

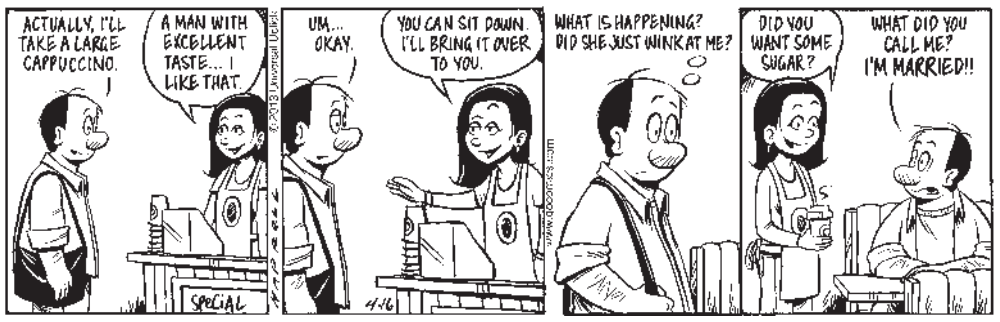

OH GOOD, A TRUE OR FALSE TEST!
AT LAST, SOME CLARITY! EVERY SENTENCE IS EITHER PURE, SWEET TRUTH OR A VILE, CONTEMPTIBLE LIE! ONE OR THE OTHER! NOTHING IN BETWEEN!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

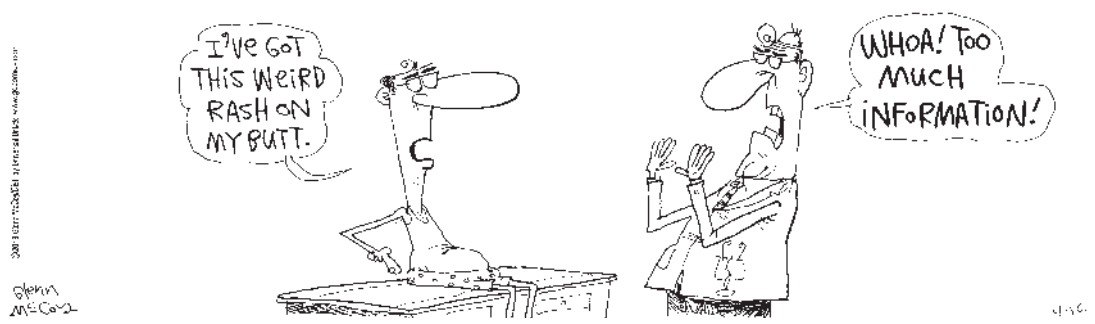
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ACTUALLY, I'LL TAKE A LARGE CAPPUCCINO.
A MAN WITH EXCELLENT TASTE... I LIKE THAT.
SPECIAL
UM... OKAY.
YOU CAN SIT DOWN. I'LL BRING IT OVER TO YOU.
WHAT IS HAPPENING? DID SHE JUST WINK AT ME?
DID YOU WANT SOME SUGAR?
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME? I'M MARRIED!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

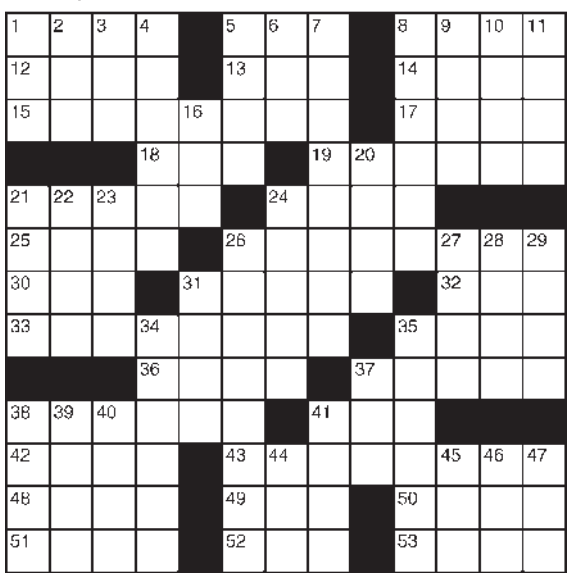
ACROSS
1 Bar order
5 Stick out
8 String tie
12 Incite
13 Blonde shade
14 Disney's "— and the Detectives"
15 O or W
17 Even, as a score
18 "— Abner"
19 Gap
21 Charley horse
24 Military status
25 Tatters
26 Quite attractive
30 Past
31 Paycheck extra
32 Altar affirmative
33 Artist René
35 Toppled
36 Commotions
37 Jaunty chapeau
38 Tray
41 Help
42 Neighborhood
43 Mississippi flower
48 "The View" alumna Lisa
49 Gorilla
50 St. Louis team
51 Shakespeare's shrew
52 Bow the head
53 Pumps up the volume

DOWN
1 Lazy person
2 Historic period
3 Ovum
4 Kingdoms
5 Hoosegow
6 Tars' org.
7 Netherlands city
8 Cause to go
9 Leave out
10 Stead
11 Automaker Ransom Eli —
16 Speed
20 Hostels
21 Study at the last minute
22 Sitarist's offering
23 Enthusiastic
24 Carries on
26 Subway employee
27 Layer
28 Between jobs
29 Filly's brother
31 Wait
34 Devastate
35 Indy Jones' hat
37 Crib
38 Polio vaccine pioneer
39 Met melody
40 Fasting period
41 On in years
44 Mil. address
45 Felon's flight
46 Little devil
47 Fool

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	S	S	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	I	M	P
L	E	I	■	P	R	E	E	N	■	N	E	O
E	X	P	L	A	I	N	E	D	■	G	A	S
■	■	■	A	R	M	■	D	E	A	R	T	H
P	L	U	C	K	S	■	S	A	G	A	■	■
F	O	N	■	S	O	N	■	R	F	I	N	S
S	U	C	H	■	N	O	S	■	S	N	O	W
O	T	H	E	R	■	W	E	B	■	E	T	A
■	■	A	R	F	S	■	D	E	A	D	F	N
E	L	I	S	S	A	■	A	W	N	■	■	■
D	E	N	■	A	B	S	T	A	I	N	E	D
A	V	F	■	I	F	P	F	R	■	I	V	Y
M	I	D	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	L	E	E

Yesterday's answer 4-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Cryer, 48; Martin Lawrence, 48; Ellen Barkin, 59; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 66

Happy Birthday: It will be difficult to control your emotional responses. Honesty will be the best way to maneuver through the ups and downs you face. Focus on the positive and refuse to be daunted by anyone or anything that stands in your way. Use your head and you will find a workable solution that will lead to your advancement. Your numbers are 9, 14, 24, 26, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may feel like sharing your stories, adventures and personal thoughts, but it will cause some emotional wear and tear if you do so with someone less discrete. Instead, make the changes that will help you reach your goal in secret. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Mix and mingle with peers, friends and family. Business developments will open up, leading you in a new direction. Learn all you can and hold people to the promises made. Delays while traveling or dealing with institutions or large corporations can be expected. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Share your ideas and solutions. Helping someone in need now will open up a chance to get something in return. Offer your time, not your cash. Take care of financial or medical issues without delay. An unusual opportunity is within reach. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotional distress due to unexpected changes can be expected. Focus on your creative endeavors and future plans and you may be able to alter the outcome in your favor. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put all your effort into details, precision and drumming up the support you need to move ahead. Travel, communication and striking up deals with past colleagues, clients or peers will pay off. Don't let your emotions stand in the way of your success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take care of emotional issues before they turn into a costly venture. Refuse to let anyone put pressure on you to invest or get involved financially in something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, attending a conference or getting together with people from your past will all contribute to your obtaining valuable information. Your ideas will captivate your audience and draw interest from someone able to contribute to your plans. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put greater emphasis on both personal and professional partnerships. Alter your residence or your workspace to better suit your current situation. Talks will lead to solutions, and travel will contribute to firsthand information. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't confront a situation if you cannot be perfectly honest. Changes you make to the way you live are encouraged and will bring about a closer bond with someone you want to spend more time with. A physical challenge will be rejuvenating. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Fact-finding will help you avoid a dubious situation with a friend, neighbor or relative. Arguments are likely to erupt if you try to make changes without proper documentation or permission. Stick close to home and nurture important relationships. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything has a beginning and an end. Draw from the best from the past and rework friendships, ideas and goals to fit your current situation to help yourself set out on a journey that will turn out to be fortuitous. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Control issues are present. You have to give and take if you want to accomplish something worthwhile. Too much of anything will work against you and cause problems with the people you need in your life to succeed. Reunite with old friends and colleagues. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unique and caring. You always try your best.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			6		3			7
		4	9	5	1	8		
2		5				9		4
		8		2		6		
3		9				7		8
		1	3	7	8	4		
6			4		2			3

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	7	3	1	8	6	2	5
2	8	6	5	7	9	4	1	3
1	5	3	4	2	6	9	7	8
8	6	5	7	9	3	1	4	2
4	1	2	6	8	5	3	9	7
3	7	9	1	4	2	5	8	6
6	2	1	8	5	4	7	3	9
5	9	4	2	3	7	8	6	1
7	3	8	9	6	1	2	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE MORINGA PLANT **Solution: 8 letters**

H	M	F	B	S	O	A	S	L	E	A	V	E	S	L
E	O	O	O	F	E	E	F	A	A	R	E	A	S	E
A	R	R	O	O	E	H	F	R	S	S	W	O	R	G
T	I	A	S	R	D	R	C	E	I	I	L	A	E	M
L	N	G	T	E	I	S	T	N	A	C	H	S	T	U
O	G	E	E	E	R	R	W	I	A	T	A	L	A	I
V	A	C	D	N	E	A	I	M	L	R	A	A	W	D
I	C	A	B	R	U	W	D	A	S	I	B	N	N	O
N	E	L	A	P	P	S	E	I	D	O	Z	D	I	S
G	A	C	N	O	O	H	D	N	S	I	U	E	A	S
O	E	I	A	W	D	F	I	E	N	H	D	R	R	B
L	N	U	N	D	S	A	U	C	E	I	E	O	C	R
E	O	M	A	E	O	Ⓗ	Ⓢ	Ⓤ	Ⓑ	S	O	U	P	E
I	R	N	D	R	I	E	D	L	S	T	U	N	R	H
C	I	A	G	S	L	L	E	S	S	E	H	S	I	D

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Africa, Areas, Asia, Banana, Boost, Branches, Bush, Calcium, Care, Dishes, Dried, Edible, Fertilizer, Foods, Forage, Fried, Genus, Grows, Health, Heat-loving, Herbs, Horseradish, India, Iron, Leaves, Long, Meal, Mineral, Moringaceae, Nuts, Oleic, Pods, Powders, Rainwater, Raw, Roots, Sauce, Seeds, Sell, Slander, Sodium, Soil, Soup, Source, Trees, Wide, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Bodysuits

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Royal Thai Massage is looking for 3 Masseuses w/ 1 yr. exp. Green card or US Citizen preferred. Call 234-2521.

---

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Chef/Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): $5.55-8.20/hr. At least 5 years' experience in Korean and Western cuisine with license in both required. High school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

WANT TO BUY

We wish to buy mileage — United/Star Alliance. Please call 234-6533.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Is looking for:

(1) Business Consultant - $5.55/hr
Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Minimum of 5 years experience. Must be able to speak, write, and read Japanese.

E-mail resume to info@jobmar.com no later than April 19, 2013.

PACIFIC ISLAND CLEANING
Job Vacancy Announcement

(6) Commercial Cleaners
(2) General Maintenance
- must have at least 5 years working experience

Please send resume to PO Box 502670 Koblerville Saipan, MP 96950

Vacancy Announcement
1-Quality Control
2 years experience as a Quality Control Checker or related work. At least High School graduate, flexible, and hardworking.

Submit Applications to:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Tel.# 235-7270

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

www.saipantribune.com

CHINESE GOODS INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: April 19, 2013

(4) COOK
- MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN CHINESE CUISINE
- FLEXIBLE WORK HOURS/SCHEDULE

Please email resume to PO Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) MASON
(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- With 5 years experience

If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001 • Tel: 285-5354

Tun Kiku's Market Inc, dba Tun Kiku's Market
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Asst. Store Manager
2 to 5 yrs exp., w/ Bachelor's Degree, computer literate (Word/Excel), prepare payroll report & have knowledge on all taxes computation and filling. Flexible hrs. Able to work weekends and holidays. Salary $5.55 p/h.

Send application to P.O. Box 7877 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950. No phone calls.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager
Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) Waitresses
Salary $5.55 p/h. Minimum 2 years experience. Knowledge in Japanese & Chinese language a plus.

Interested applicants may call Yang Xia at 233-9468

Emerald City, LLC
is looking for

(3) Waitress

- US Citizen
- Must be 21 years old and above
- With more than 2 years of experience in hospitality/restaurant business
- Fluent in English
- Knowledge in Russian and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work full time (flexible hours to fit in broken shifts)

Please send resume to info@ecsaipan.com or call 789-8437 for interview.

Vacancy Announcement

1 - Automotive Body Repairer
At least 5 years working experience. Willing to work flexible time and dependable. Hardworking and trustworthy.

1 - **Mechanic/Driver**
High School diploma or general education degree; 1 to 2 years related work experience and/or training; with valid driver's license.

Submit Applications to:
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Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January

WHATZIT Solution: Rest easy

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

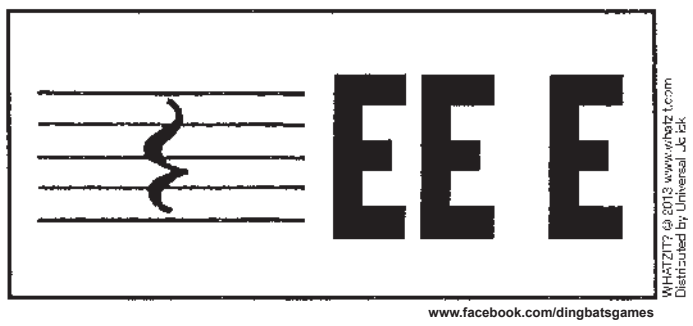
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Lakers win without Kobe, rallying past Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An empty chair sat in front of Kobe Bryant's locker Sunday night, and the Los Angeles Lakers realized they would have to fill it together.

With their playoff hopes likely on the line against powerful San Antonio, the Lakers cobbled together a group effort that kept them in the hunt.

Dwight Howard had 26 points and 17 rebounds, and the Lakers staged a dramatic rally in the fourth quarter to win their first game since losing Bryant for the season, beating the Spurs 91-86 Sunday night to stay in playoff position.

Steve Blake scored 23 points for the Lakers (44-37), who lead Utah (42-38) by 1 1/2 games for the eighth postseason spot in the Western Conference after their seventh win in eight games—even with Bryant watching from home following surgery on his torn Achilles tendon.

The Lakers weren't exactly relishing a future without their leading scorer, but they warmed to the challenge down the stretch.

"It definitely gives us confidence that if we play as hard as we did tonight, we can beat anybody," said Pau Gasol, who had seven points and 16 rebounds.

Bryant limped off the Staples Center floor Friday night, his 17th NBA season finished. He'll be largely immobile for the next few weeks, but he tweeted a plan to call in at halftime with adjustments for his teammates.

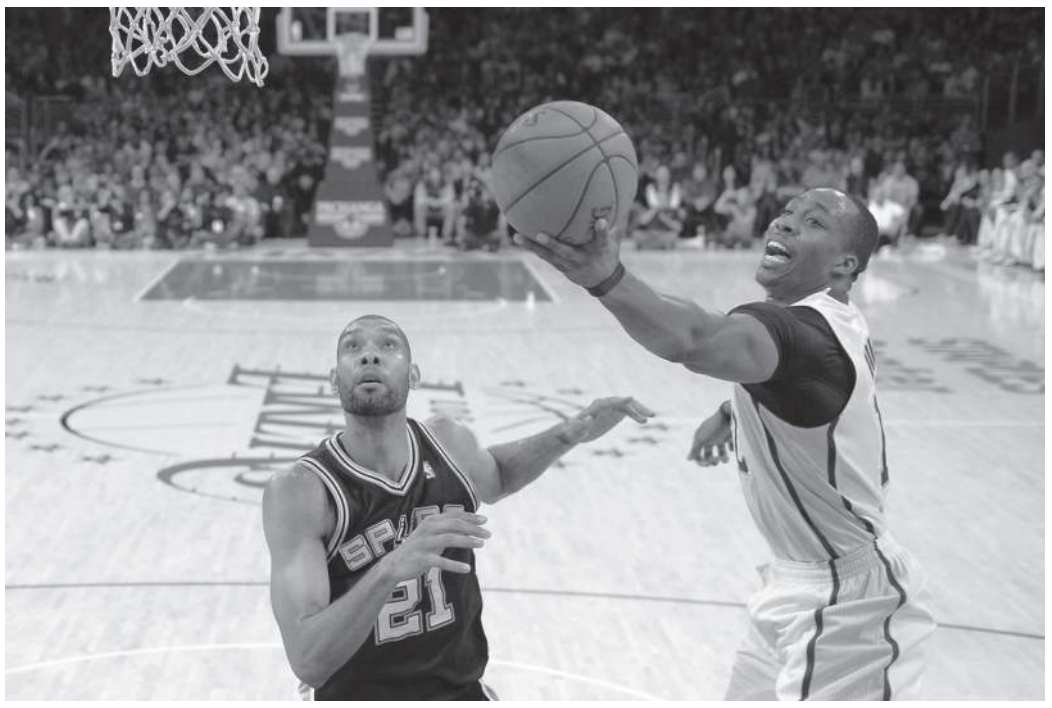
Most of the Lakers said they didn't actually hear from Kobe, but they knew he was proud.

"Whew!! Well done my dudes. Well done. UNO MAS (hash)playoffs," Bryant tweeted after the game.

The Lakers all shared Bryant's playmaking and defensive duties, working together imperfectly but effectively. Blake filled in for injured point guard Steve Nash and provided an unexpected scoring punch along with top reserve Antawn Jamison, who scored nine of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

"We knew everybody doubted us, but that's fine," Howard said. "We're going to push even harder. I told our guys before the game, `Nobody believes we can win. We've just got to go out there and play like it. We're all professional athletes. We've all done some great things in our career, so why not just go out there and play hard, and let everything happen?'"

Los Angeles blew open a tied game with a 15-4 run midway through the fourth. Bryant's starting replacement, Jodie Meeks, hit two 3-pointers during the rally, and Blake added three free throws in the final seconds while the Lakers fended off Tim Duncan's late rally for the Spurs.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, right, shoots as San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan defends during the first half of their NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Los Angeles.

The Lakers were clunky at times, with Gasol missing 12 of his first 13 shots and Howard struggling at the free throw line when San Antonio intentionally fouled him in the third quarter. They were still markedly effective, with a late-game smoothness they haven't often shown this season.

"Kobe is such a dominating player," Blake said. "He's going to have the ball in his hands, and we always want to play through him. Tonight, I think everybody felt they could show what they can do."

Los Angeles only needs one more win or one Utah loss to clinch its 16th playoff berth in Bryant's career. The Jazz visit Minnesota on Monday before finishing the season against Memphis, while the Lakers have the next two days off before their finale at home against Houston.

Duncan had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who have lost six straight road games. San Antonio (58-22) is likely to finish second in the West behind Oklahoma City (59-21), which holds the tiebreaker.

Tony Parker scored just four points on 1-of-10 shooting while playing for just the fourth time in April, possibly slowed by his injured shin in the Spurs' first game since waiving disenchanted forward Stephen Jackson. San Antonio is headed into another postseason as a top-two seed, but the Spurs have lost five of eight after failing to complete a season sweep of the Lakers.

"We didn't match their energy at all," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "I just thought we sort of floated through the game. Duncan was great, as usual. Timmy is a pro. ... He's really the only guy on the team that played like somebody who wanted to win a championship."

Duncan echoed Popovich's concerns about the Spurs' recent play while also expressing surprise at Popovich's decision to disrupt the team's chemistry by dumping Jackson so close to the postseason. Kawhi Leonard, whose increased prominence led to Jackson's dissatisfaction and dismissal, managed just eight points in 33 minutes against the Lakers, making only one field goal.

"We're two games away from the playoffs, and Manu (Ginobili) is still not here, Tony is still finding his rhythm," Duncan said. "We're not scoring at the rate we need to, but we're a veteran team, and we're confident we can get it together."

The Spurs couldn't have anticipated that the Lakers' biggest offensive surprise would be their backup point guard: Blake scored 14 points in the second quarter and hit four 3-pointers, fearlessly stepping up to create shots while Nash missed his seventh straight game with a right hamstring injury. Los Angeles is hoping Nash can return for the season finale.

Heat 105, Bulls 93

In Miami, LeBron James scored 24 points and Dwyane Wade added 22 as the Miami Heat set a club record for home wins in a season, beating the Chicago Bulls.

Mario Chalmers and Chris Andersen each scored 15 for Miami, which improved to a 36-4 win-loss mark at home—topping the 35-6 record by the 2004-05 Heat.

Miami held Chicago without a 2-point basket for the first 16 minutes of the second half, with the Bulls relying almost exclusively on 3-pointers.

Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 20 rebounds for the Bulls, who snapped Miami's 27-game winning streak last month. Chicago finished with 29 field goals and 30 fouls, allowing the Heat to shoot a season-high 41 free throws.

The loss keeps Chicago in the No. 6 spot in the Eastern Conference. Miami has wrapped up home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Nuggets 118, Trail Blazers 109

In Denver, Andre Iguodala scored 28 points as Denver beat short-handed Portland to set an NBA franchise record with its 55th win.

Rookie Evan Fournier added 24 points for the Nuggets, who also extended their franchise-best winning streak at home to 22 straight to move a game ahead of the Los Angeles Clippers and Memphis for the third seed in the West.

The Nuggets went 54-28 in both 1987-88 and 2008-09, when they reached the conference finals. They are 37-3 at home—also a team best since joining the NBA 37 years ago.

Rookie Damian Lillard led Portland with 30 points.

Knicks 90, Pacers 80

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points and New York clinched the No. 2 seed in the East for the playoffs with a victory over Indiana—the Knicks' 15th win in the last 16 games.

Chris Copeland added 20 points and J.R. Smith had 15 for the Knicks, who will host seventh-seeded Boston next weekend. New York is guaranteed the home-court advantage for the first two rounds of the playoffs after finishing a distant second to Miami in the conference.

Lance Stephenson scored 22 points and West had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who came into the game with a chance to catch the Knicks for second but settled for the No. 3 seed after fourth-place Brooklyn lost at Toronto.

Raptors 93, Nets 87

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 36 points, Rudy Gay had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Toronto never trailed in beating Brooklyn for its third straight victory.

Amir Johnson had 10 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors, who hadn't won three straight since a five-game winning streak from Feb. 8 to 19.

DeRozan scored 14 in the fourth quarter and finished 9-for-9 at the free throw line, converting a vital pair in the final 15 seconds.

Deron Williams scored 30 points, Brook Lopez had 16 and Andray Blatche 15 for the Nets, who will be the No. 4 seed in the East.

Rockets 121, Kings 100

In Houston, James Harden had 29 points and nine assists while Omer Asik had 10 points and 12 rebounds as Houston cruised to a win over Sacramento in its regular-season home finale.

Jeremy Lin added 15 points for the Rockets, who've won nine of their last 12 home games heading into the playoffs.

The Rockets climbed to sixth place in the Western Conference. They have the same record as Golden State (45-35) but own the tiebreaker after winning the season series with the Warriors 3-1. Houston plays Phoenix on Monday and finishes the regular season against the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday.

John Salmons scored 14 points and Isaiah Thomas had 10 points and 10 assists for the Kings.

Mavericks 107, Hornets 89

In New Orleans, Shawn Marion had 21 points on 10-of-16 shooting and Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 to become the 17th NBA player to surpass 25,000 career points, leading Dallas past New Orleans.

Brandan Wright and Vince Carter added 16 points for Mavericks (40-40), who reached the .500 mark for the first time since they were 11-11 in mid-December. They had lost by double digits in their three previous chances to even their record.

Ryan Anderson led the cold-shooting Hornets with 20 points, but he was only 8-of-20 from the floor. Eric Gordon added 15 points, and Robin Lopez had 10 points and 13 rebounds. New Orleans shot 39.7 percent in its final home game and trailed by as much as 27.

76ers 91, Cavaliers 77

In Philadelphia, Dorell Wright scored 15 points and Thaddeus Young had 14 points and nine rebounds to lead Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Spencer Hawes and Jrue Holiday each added 14 points for the 76ers, who raced to a 19-point lead in the first half and sent the Cavaliers to their fourth straight loss.

Tristan Thompson had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers. Kevin Jones had 11 points and 10 rebounds, while All-Star guard Kyrie Irving had only four points in 18 minutes.

The Sixers finished 23-18 at home and are 33-47 overall a year after winning 35 games and a round in the playoffs during the lockout-shortened season.

Sources: Collins tells 76ers he's out as coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Doug Collins has told the Philadelphia 76ers he will quit as head coach following this season with a year left on his contract.

Two people with knowledge of the situation tell The Associated Press that Collins informed ownership he's not coming back for a fourth season on the bench.

The people spoke to The AP on Sunday on condition of anonymity because the Sixers and Collins had not formally announced the move.

The people told The AP that management wanted Collins to return and he was under no pressure to step down. There was no immediate word if Collins, owed $4.5 million in the last year of his contract, would remain with the franchise in some capacity.

Team president Rod Thorn was already set to step aside after this season, leaving open the possibility Collins assumes greater front office control.

With the franchise in decline after the Andrew Bynum trade was a massive flop, Collins decided he wanted no part of what could be a long rebuilding effort.

The Sixers are 33-47 and in ninth place in the Eastern Conference a year after they won 35 games and a round in the playoffs in last year's lockout-shortened season. The Sixers finish out the season Monday in Detroit and Wednesday in Indiana.

Team owner Joshua Harris, who did not immediately respond to emails Sunday night, was scheduled to meet with the media on Thursday.

Collins, a four-time All-Star with the Sixers, returned to the franchise in 2010 and led them to the playoffs in each of his first two seasons.

After falling one win shy of advancing to the Eastern Conference finals last season, the Sixers shook up the roster and made the bold move to acquire Bynum.

Bynum never played for the Sixers because of bone bruises in both knees. He insisted from training camp he would play this season, only to shut it down for good on March 18 and undergo season-ending arthroscopic surgery on both knees. Bynum earned $16.5 million this season and is set to become an unrestricted free agent.

Buchholz no-hit bid ends in 8th, Sox beat Rays

BOSTON (AP)—Clay Buchholz didn't allow a hit until Kelly Johnson's broken-bat single leading off the eighth inning, helping the Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-0 on Sunday.

Buchholz, who threw a no-hitter in just his second career start in 2007, allowed two hits and four walks in eight innings and struck out a career-high 11.

Johnson singled with an 0-1 count on Buchholz's 101st pitch, sending the ball over first baseman Mike Napoli while the top part of the bat landed near the front edge of the infield between first and second.

Buchholz (3-0) lowered his ERA to 0.41, allowing one earned run in 22 innings He left after 109 pitches, and Andrew Miller finished with a one-hit ninth.

Alex Cobb (1-1) allowed four runs—three earned—and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings, and Tampa Bay lost for the fifth time in six games. The Rays have eight runs in their last six games.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz delivers against the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Sunday, April 14, 2013.

Tigers 10, Athletics 1

In Oakland, California, Austin Jackson had four hits, homered and drove in three runs, and Torii Hunter added two doubles and a triple as the Tigers routed the Athletics.

Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs for the Tigers, who had 14 hits and won for the third time in four games. The first eight batters in the Tigers batting order had at least one hit, and seven players drove in runs.

Anibal Sanchez (2-0) overcame a sluggish start to pitch seven innings, winning his second straight outing and giving Detroit's bullpen a needed rest. He allowed one run, three hits and four walks, matching his season-high of eight strikeouts.

Jarrod Parker (0-2), who lost to Detroit in Games 1 and 5 of last year's AL division series, gave up a career-high eight runs and nine hits in 3 1-3 innings.

White Sox 3, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Jake Peavy struck out 11 in seven innings, Paul Konerko homered and the Chicago White Sox broke a five-game losing streak.

The White Sox went into the game as the majors' only winless team on the road. Chicago was swept three games in Washington before dropping the first two against the Indians.

Peavy (2-1) gave up a home run to Michael Bourn on his first pitch of the game but held the Indians to five hits overall and didn't walk a batter.

Addison Reed pitched the ninth for his fourth save, retiring Jason Giambi with a runner on to end the game.

Konerko's two-run homer ruined a solid effort from Brett Myers (0-2), who took a shutout into the sixth.

Royals 3, Blue Jays 2

In Kansas City, Alex Gordon drove home Chris Getz with a single in the ninth inning as the Royals beat the Blue Jays to avoid a series sweep.

The Royals played from behind nearly the entire way, but broke through when Getz doubled off Blue Jays reliever Darren Oliver (0-1) with one out in the ninth. Gordon swatted the first pitch he saw from Oliver into the outfield, and Getz slid home easily ahead of the tag.

Kelvin Herrera (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth inning for the Royals, who got eight strong innings from Ervin Santana to remain within striking distance.

Edwin Encarnacion homered and drove in both runs for the Blue Jays.

Angels 4, Astros 1

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout hit his first home run of the season and Josh Hamilton also connected, leading C.J. Wilson and the Angels over Houston.

Trout put the Angels ahead for good with his solo homer in the third inning. He also doubled and scored three times.

Hamilton tripled and singled before hitting his second homer of the year, a two-run drive in the eighth.

Wilson (1-0) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. He struck out three and walked four.

Philip Humber (0-3) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings and struck out four.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3

In Seattle, Dustin Ackley broke a sixth-inning tie with a single for his first RBI this season, and rookie Brandon Maurer (1-2) rebounded from a horrible start to allow three runs—two earned—and five hits in six innings.

Raul Ibanez added a solo homer as Seattle split the four-game series, and Tom Wilhelmsen pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Nick Tepesch (1-1) made his second big league start and gave up four runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Yankees 3, Orioles 0

In New York, Hiroki Kuroda (2-1) pitched a five-hitter for his fifth major league shutout and Brett Gardner hit his first home run off a left-handed pitcher since July 2010.

Orioles starter Wei-Yin Chen (0-2) matched Kuroda until the fifth. Brennan Boesch led off with a single and scored on Jayson Nix's sacrifice fly, and Gardner hit a drive high off the right-field foul pole. Gardner had gone 178 at-bats without a home run off a lefty—198 including the postseason—since connecting off Toronto's Ricky Romero on July 3, 2010.

Braves 9, Nationals 0

In Washington, Justin Upton and Andrelton Simmons homered to help the Atlanta Braves win their ninth in row as Paul Maholm beat the Washington Nationals to complete a three-game sweep.

Upton hit his seventh home run of the season. Chris Johnson had four hits and two RBIs for the Braves, who took a 7-0 lead in the third inning against Gio Gonzalez (1-1).

In sweeping their NL East rivals and compiling the best record in the major leagues, Atlanta (11-1) has outscored the opposition 62-23.

Washington has lost seven straight to Atlanta since last year.

Maholm (3-0) allowed four hits in 7 2-3 innings. He has not permitted a run this season in 20 1-3 innings over three starts.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Roy Halladay earned his 200th career victory, bouncing back from consecutive poor outings to pitch eight innings and help the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Miami Marlins 2-1.

Laynce Nix broke a 1-all tie with his second pinch-hit homer of the season in the ninth.

Halladay (1-2) allowed five hits, walked one and lowered his ERA from 14.73 to 7.63. He's the 109th pitcher to reach the 200-win milestone, and the first to do so in a Phillies uniform since Hall of Famer Steve Carlton in 1978.

Nix batted for Halladay with one out in the ninth and homered into the upper deck in right field off Jon Rauch (0-2).

Jonathan Papelbon pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his second save.

Diamondbacks 1, Dodgers 0

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt hit a game-winning single off Josh Beckett with one out in the ninth inning, lifting the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Diamondbacks starter Trevor Cahill pitched six-hit ball for 7 1-3 innings. J.J. Putz (1-0) walked one in the ninth.

Beckett (0-2) gave up a one-out double to A.J. Pollock in the ninth. Beckett ran the count to 3-0 before intentionally walking Miguel Montero, and Goldschmidt singled to right field.

Rockies 2, Padres 1

In San Diego, Todd Helton had a pinch-hit, two-run homer in the seventh inning and Jorge De La Rosa and three relievers combined on a two-hitter to carry the Colorado Rockies over San Diego.

Colorado also swept San Diego at Coors Field last weekend.

Helton's homer off Dale Thayer (0-1) broke a scoreless tie. It was Helton's first homer this season and his third career pinch homer.

De La Rosa (1-1) held the Padres scoreless on two hits in six innings. Rafael Betancourt gave up a run in the ninth before getting his fifth save.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 3, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Jonathan Lucroy hit a solo home run in the 10th inning as the Milwaukee Brewers rallied past the St. Louis Cardinals and avoided a sweep.

The Brewers had gone a team-record 32 innings without scoring before Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer off reliever Trevor Rosenthal in the eighth. Braun's second home run of the season snapped a 39-inning shutout streak for St. Louis pitchers.

Milwaukee tied it in the ninth on a leadoff single by Carlos Gomez and a double by Yuniesky Betancourt off Mitchell Boggs. Lucroy's first homer this year came off Fernando Salas (0-2).

Brandon Kintzler (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth. Burke Badenhop got his first save.

Matt Adams homered for the third straight game for St. Louis.

Giants 10, Cubs 7, 10 innings

In Chicago, Edwin Jackson and Michael Bowden equaled a major league record by combining to throw five wild pitches in an inning, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Chicago Cubs in the 10th.

The Cubs matched the record for wild pitches by a team in an inning during a four-run sixth.

Hunter Pence hit a tying homer with two outs in the Giants' ninth off Shawn Camp (0-1). A balk by Camp scored the go-ahead run in the 10th.

George Kontos (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning and Sergio Romo worked the 10th for his seventh save in eight chances.

Pirates 10, Reds 7

In Pittsburgh, backup catcher Michael McKenry had the first two-homer game of his four-year major league career, while Starling Marte hit a tiebreaking two-run drive in a six-run eighth inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates sent Cincinnati to its fifth straight loss.

The Pirates swept the Reds for the first time since April 2010 in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh trailed 5-0 when McKenry homered off Mat Latos leading off the seventh. McKenry hit a tying homer in the eighth.

Jared Hughes (1-0) got the win and Jonathan Broxton (0-1) took the loss.

Quentin drops appeal, starts serving suspension

SAN DIEGO (AP)—San Diego Padres slugger Carlos Quentin has dropped his appeal and is beginning an eight-game suspension for rushing the mound and inciting a brawl in which Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke broke his left collarbone. With the suspension starting with Sunday's game against Colorado, Quentin will miss the Padres' three-game series at Dodger Stadium beginning Monday night.

Quentin charged the mound after he was hit in the upper left arm by a pitch from Greinke. The two players lowered their shoulders and Quentin slammed into Greinke, who broke his left collarbone in the wild fight that ensued.

Quentin says the suspension "is very difficult." He reiterated that it was unfortunate that Greinke was injured, but says he still believes he had to protect himself.

SCOTT

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Scott.

It was only last summer when Scott threw away the British Open by making bogey on his last four holes to lose by one shot to Ernie Els. He handled that wrenching defeat with dignity and pledged to finish stronger if given another chance. "Next time—I'm sure there will be a next time—I can do a better job of it," he said that day.

Scott was close to perfect, and he had to be with Cabrera delivering some brilliance of his own.

Moments after Scott made his clutch birdie on the 18th hole for a 3-under 69 to take a one-shot lead—"C'mon, Aussie!" he screamed—Cabrera answered with one of the greatest shots under the circumstances, setting up an easy birdie and a 2-under 70. They finished at 9-under 279.

They both chipped close for par on the 18th in the first playoff hole, and Cabrera's 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th grazed the right side of the cup. Scott his 6-iron into about 12 feet, leaving him one putt away from a green jacket.

Under darkening clouds—no sudden-death playoff at the Masters had ever gone more than two holes—Scott said he could barely read the putt. That's when he called over caddie Steve Williams and asked him to take over. Williams was on the bag for 13 of Tiger Woods' majors, and read the putt that helped Woods to the 1999 PGA Championship.

"I said, `Do you think it's just more than a cup?' He said, `It's at least two cups. It's going to break more than you think,' " Scott said. "He was my eyes on that putt."

"The winning putt might be the highlight putt of my career," Williams said. "Because he asked me to read it."

With that long putter anchored to his chest, the putt was pure. The Masters had been the only major that never had a champion use a long putter. Scott's win means four of the last six major champions used a putter pressed against their belly or chest, a stroke that might be banned in 2016.

What mattered more to Scott was that the Masters had been the only major an Australian had never won. He was among dozens of golfers who routinely rose in the early hours of Monday morning for the telecast, only to watch a horror show. The leading character was Norman, who had four good chances to win, none better than when he blew a six-shot lead on the last day to Nick Faldo in 1996.

There was also Jim Ferrier in 1952 and Bruce Crampton 20 years later. Scott and Jason Day tied for second just two years ago. Norman, though, was the face of Aussie failures at the Masters, and Scott paid him tribute in Butler Cabin before he slipped on that beautiful green jacket.

"Australia is a proud sporting nation, and this is one notch in the belt we never got," Scott said. "It's amazing that it came down to me today. But there's one guy who inspired a nation of golfers, and that's Greg Norman. He's been incredible to me and all the great golfers. Part of this belongs to him."

Reached at his home in south Florida, Norman told The Associated Press, "I'm over the moon. Sitting there watching Adam, I had a tear in my eye. That's what it was all about. It was Adam doing it for himself, and for the country."

Norman was so nervous watching TV that he went to the gym when the final group made the turn. He headed home for the last four holes—Day, Scott and Marc Leishman all had a chance to win—and was texting with friends as his emotions shifted with every putt.

"I can only imagine how everyone else felt when I was playing," Norman said.

Scott was just as gracious in victory as he was last summer at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. He and Cabrera flashed a thumbs-up to each other after their shots into the 10th hole in the playoff, and they walked off the 10th green with their arms around each other when it was over.

"Such is golf," Cabrera said. "Adam is a good winner."

It was a riveting conclusion to a week filled with several awkward moments. There was the one-shot penalty called against 14-year-old Guan Tianlang that nearly kept the Chinese teen from becoming the youngest player to make the cut. There was the illegal drop by Woods, who was given a two-shot penalty over questions and confusion about why he was not disqualified for signing an incorrect card.

And at the end, there was shot-making at its finest.

Scott didn't make a bogey after the first hole, and he really didn't miss a shot the rest of the day. He just couldn't get a putt to fall until it really mattered. Then, he made two of them.

Day closed with a 70, his second close call at the Masters in three years. This one hurt far more because he had a two-shot lead when he stepped to the 16th tee.

He ran off three bold birdies down the stretch—getting up-and-down from the back bunker on the 13th, a 10-foot putt on the 14th, and capitalizing on a break at No. 15 when his drive ricocheted out of the trees into the fairways, allowing him to reach the green in two.

His lead vanished just as quickly, however. Day chose to hit putter from behind the 16th green, came up 5 feet short and missed the par putt. He hit into a bunker on the 17th for another bogey.

"I think the pressure got to me a little bit," Day said.

The tournament unfolded behind him, and it turned out to be quite a show.

Scott hit the ball beautifully the entire day and watched one putt after another turn away from the hole. But he also received perhaps the biggest break of the tournament when his shot into the par-5 13th spun back off the green and was headed down the slope into the tributary of Rae's Creek when it suddenly stopped, a blessing from a day spent in the rain. He got up-and-down for birdie, and he two-putted for birdie on the 15th.

Cabrera wasn't so fortunate. Playing in the group behind, his approach hit the bank and tumbled down into the water, leading to a bogey that cost him the lead. Cabrera answered with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th, however, that gave him a share of the lead.

And then came a one-two punch of birdies. For the fans who endured a soggy final round, this made up for it.

Two players. Two clutch birdies. Two different celebrations.

Scott screamed at the top of his lungs and clapped hands forcefully with his caddie after his 20-foot birdie putt curled around the left side of the cup—just like Phil Mickelson's winning putt in 2004—and dropped in the back.

Cabrera, going after a third major championship, started walking when he hit his 7-iron from 163 yards and pumped his left fist when it landed and the gallery erupted. He affectionately hugged his son and caddie, Angel Jr., as they walked off the green toward the scoring room.

"It was a split second I thought I'd won," Scott said. "That was the putt we've seen so many guys make to win, and what I thought is it's time for me to step up and see how much I want this. To make a couple putts to win the Masters is just an amazing feeling."

For Woods, it was another one that got away.

Not even that two-shot penalty on Friday—the product of a wedge that hit the flag and caromed back into the water—would have mattered. Woods figured he would need a round of 65 to win, and he made two bogeys before his first birdie. Even a mild charge on the back nine wasn't going to help him, and he closed with a 70 to tie for fourth with Marc Leishman (72).

"I played well," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I didn't make enough putts."

He now has gone eight years without winning the Masters, and he has been stuck on 14 majors since the 2008 U.S. Open. Woods is 0-for-15 in the majors since then, a drought Jack Nicklaus never endured until he was 44.

EASY

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dish, scored two runs, and recorded two RBIs and three singles. Eina's five other teammates added two runs apiece.

Most of the Ol'Aces' runs came at the top of the fourth where they logged eight runs to turn a slim 4-2 lead to a 12-2 advantage. Denny Jepen, Verlsanson Secharmidal, and Mike Muna walked and the Ol'Aces' first two batters reached home plate off Eina's single, while Muna scored off an error. Eina and Fermin Renguul also reached home plate off the Lions' errors, while Zach Yamagishi drove Kenji Yamagata home. Jepen scored the Ol'Aces' last run in that inning off another Lions' miscue after he went for his second at bat and drove Yamagishi home.

The Lions failed to retaliate at the bottom of the fourth inning, as they were done after only three batters with Eina striking out leadoff batter Jesus Dela Cruz and Jared Ayuyu and catching a flayball from Catalina Dela Cruz.

Jessie Brel came in for Eina in the fifth inning and picked up where his teammate left off. After giving up to hits and two runs in the fifth, Brel had a no-hitter in the last two innings. He struck out the Lions' first three batters in the sixth and had two more strikeouts in the last inning.

Fielders 9, Enforcers 0

In the second game, the Fielders shut out the DARE Enforcers after only six and a half innings.

The Fielders used three pitchers against the Enforcers and all stood their ground on the mound. Kainoa Wanket pitched in the first four innings and had five strikeouts, allowing only four hits. The Enforcers had no more than five sluggers going at bat in the first four innings with Wanket showing a steady pitching game.

David Ada came in for Wanket in the fifth inning and although the former had only two strikeouts, he allowed only one hit and the rest of the Fielders' defense hung tough with no Enforcer runner passing second base.

Cody Kaipat closed out for the Fielders at the top of the seventh and after giving up a single to Jeffery Dela Cruz, he struck out three of the next four batters. Kaipat forced second batter Freddy Songa out, walked Payton Lizama, and struck out fourth batter P.J. Sablan. With two outs and Dela Cruz on third and Lizama on first, Kaipat ended the Enforcers' hope to break into the scoreboard, striking out Darion Jones.

The Fielders' consistent hitting at the bottom of the third inning complemented their impressive pitching, as the eventual winners scored five runs in that frame to built an 8-0 lead. Devin Ada hit a two-run double, while Zack Sasamoto connected on a two-run single. The other run came off the Enforcers' error.

FIELDERS

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first game in the third and final round of the regular season and improved to a 6-3 record and retained the No. 3 spot in the team standings behind the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees (8-1), Tan Holdings Brewers (7-2). The D-9ers are at the cellar of the five-team field with a disappointing 0-10 record, while the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels complete the field and hold a 2-7 card.

The Fielders started the third round on a high note, as they bagged the win after only seven innings due to the 10-run mercy rule. They were down after one complete inning, 1-2, but recovered quickly, capitalizing on the erratic fielding of the D-9ers in the next two innings to start a breakaway.

A five-run top of the second switched the lead to the Fielders, 6-2, with four of the runs scored in that inning coming off the D-9ers' miscue, especially from the right outfield. Patrick Tenorio nailed the other run off an RBI single from shortstop Poland Masaharu.

The Fielders then gained six more runs at the top of the third, five of them were made off D-9ers fumbles anew, while the other one was courtesy of Wally Emul's RBI double. The D-9ers had no answer at the bottom, allowing the Fielders to open a 12-2 advantage.

The D-9ers finally lit up the scoreboard again in the fourth inning off a Fielders' error and the former added two more in the fifth. However, the Fielders still outscored the D-9ers in the last four innings with their seven runs, as the latter continued to struggle on defense, particularly rightfielder Vince Castro. Castro was either too far away to pick up the ball when the Fielders' batters hit it dropped to his spot or had butterfingers, losing precious seconds before getting the leather. Catcher Dodet Feliciano and the basemen also had a couple of wild throws and the Fielders scored two more off this errors to force the D-9ers to score at least five runs to extend the game.

Under pressure, leadoff batter Isaiah Lizama felt the heat and was struck out by relief pitcher Shane Mendiola, who came in for Joe Palacios in the fifth inning, for the first out. The D-9ers were then called for the second out with first baseman Wens Namelo picking up Ian Lizama's grounder. With two outs, the D-9ers found a lease of life when Feliciano and Rocco Reyes had base hits. However, the two were left stranded on first and second when Mendiola, who had two strikes against batter Jeremy Atalig, came in to home plate, recovered a wild pitch that catcher Emul struggled to get and threw to first base for the last out.

Ricardo dela Cruz led the Fielders' offense, going 4-for-5 at the plate, scoring three runs and making three singles and one RBI. Winning pitcher Joe Palacios had six strikeouts and allowed only two hits and only one earned run in five innings.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

U.S. MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Scores Saturday from the U.S. Masters, played at the par-72, 7,435-yard Augusta National Golf Club:

FINAL ROUND

x-Adam Scott	69-72-69-69—279
Angel Cabrera	71-69-69-70—279
Jason Day	70-68-73-70—281
Marc Leishman	66-73-72-72—283
Tiger Woods	70-73-70-70—283
Thorbjorn Olesen	78-70-68-68—284
Brandt Snedeker	70-70-69-75—284
Sergio Garcia	66-76-73-70—285
Matt Kuchar	68-75-69-73—285
Lee Westwood	70-71-73-71—285
Tim Clark	70-76-67-73—286
John Huh	70-77-71-68—286
Fred Couples	68-71-77-71—287
Ernie Els	71-74-73-69—287
Dustin Johnson	67-76-74-70—287
David Toms	70-74-76-67—287
Nick Watney	78-69-68-72—287
Branden Grace	78-70-71-69—288
Henrik Stenson	75-71-73-69—288
Jason Dufner	72-69-75-73—289
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	68-74-73-74—289
Bill Haas	71-72-74-72—289
Steve Stricker	73-70-71-75—289
Bo Van Pelt	71-74-70-74—289
Stewart Cink	75-71-73-71—290
Luke Donald	71-72-75-72—290
Jim Furyk	69-71-74-76—290
Freddie Jacobson	72-73-72-73—290
Bernhard Langer	71-71-72-76—290
Rory McIlroy	72-70-79-69—290
Justin Rose	70-71-75-74—290
Charl Schwartzel	71-71-75-73—290
Richard Sterne	73-72-75-70—290
Michael Thompson	73-71-79-67—290
Zach Johnson	69-76-71-75—291
Martin Kaymer	72-75-74-70—291
John Senden	72-70-75-74—291
Rickie Fowler	68-76-70-78—292
Robert Garrigus	76-71-72-73—292
Brian Gay	72-74-74-72—292
Ryo Ishikawa	71-77-76-68—292
Paul Lawrie	76-70-75-71—292
Ryan Moore	71-72-81-68—292
D.A. Points	72-75-72-73—292
Vijay Singh	72-74-74-72—292
Thomas Bjorn	73-73-76-71—293
K.J. Choi	70-71-77-75—293
David Lynn	68-73-80-72—293
Lucas Glover	74-74-73-73—294
Peter Hanson	72-75-76-72—295
Trevor Immelman	68-75-78-74—295
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-72-74-75—295
Bubba Watson	75-73-70-77—295
Keegan Bradley	73-73-82-69—297
Sandy Lyle	73-72-81-71—297
Phil Mickelson	71-76-77-73—297
Scott Piercy	75-69-78-75—297
a-Guan Tianlang	73-75-77-75—300
Kevin Na	70-76-74-81—301
John Peterson	71-77-74-80—302
Carl Pettersson	76-70-77-81—304

x-won playoff on second hole
a-amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOPEZ

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mate in his former finals foe—Kim—and the duo defeated two other pairs to win the championship. They first met Michael Jones and Ken Song last Saturday morning and cruised to a 6-4, 6-1 win. Schorr and Kim went on to secure the champion as early as Saturday afternoon after downing Haruya Eda and Vincent Tudela, 6-3, 6-3. Tudela and Eda settled for runner-up honors after prevailing against Jones and Son last Sunday, 6-4, 6-2.

In the girls U12 doubles, Tan and Lee swept Julia Ishikawa and Malika Miyawaki in a battle of the Top 2 seeds in the finals last Sunday, 6-2, 6-0. Lee and Tan drew a bye in the first round and barged into the finals after eliminating Jireh Warren and Asia Raulerson last Saturday, 6-3, 6-0. Raulerson and Warren made it to the Final Four after slipping past sisters Conatsu and Coume Kaga last Friday, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. In the other semis pairing, Ishikawa and Miyawaki coasted past Ami Tsukagoshi and Mimi Sakano, 6-2, 6-0.

The Top 2 finishers in each division received in-kind and donated prizes during the awards ceremony held at PIC's Napu Room, while cash were given to open singles and doubles winners. The prizes were courtesy off tournaments sponsors Joeten, PIC-Saipan, PTC (Gatorade and Monster), Thai Spa, and Hollywood Theaters.

Long De Football Club vs Tan Holdings FC

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players of China's Long De Football Club and Tan Holdings pose for a group photo after their friendly game last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tan Holdings FC and Long De Football Club players shake hands after their game.

Long De Football Club defenders get ready for Tan Holdings' free kick.

A Long De Football Club striker goes for a header against Tan Holdings' Wai Wo Lee

Tan Holdings' Ruselle Zapanta, left, pulls the jersey of Long De Football Club's Zhao Yu Cheng.

Tan Holdings' Jersh Angeles is nudged by a Long De Football Club player.

The Tan Holdings goalie gets ready for an attack from a Long De Football Club's striker.

Tan Holdings' Raphael Zapanta, center, is up against two Long De Football Club players.

Tan Holdings' Marc Mora shakes hand with a Long De Football Club player after the game.

Buchholz no-hit bid ends in 8th, Sox beat Rays

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers win without Kobe, rallying past Spurs

PAGE 24

Scott beats Cabrera in a playoff

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Adam Scott barely had time to think about an Australian in a green jacket when a sudden roar from the 18th green and a quick look at the TV reminded him it's never been easy. Not for him in the majors. And certainly not for the Aussies at Augusta National.

He thought for a second it was over when he made a 20-foot birdie putt, the kind that always wins the Masters. In the scoring room, one last cheer on a soggy Sunday caused Scott to look up at the television after Angel Cabrera produced a great shot of his own, a 7-iron to 3 feet for birdie to force a playoff.

Not again.

"The golf gods can't be this cruel to Australia," Greg Norman, the symbol of heartache at Augusta, said in a text to friends who were watching nervously.

Scott knocked in a 12-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole to win that green jacket, personal redemption for his own failure last summer in the British Open and an end to more than a half-century of Australian misery at the Masters.

Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!

"We like to think we're the best at everything. Golf is a big sport at home, and this is the one thing in golf we hadn't been able to achieve," Scott said. "It's amazing that it's my destiny to be the first Australian to win. It's incredible."

Halfway around the world on Monday morning, commuters cheered on buses going into Brisbane, the capital of Scott's home state of Queensland. A speech by the prime minister was interrupted to give an update on the playoff.

The celebration was sweet, especially for the 32-year-old

See SCOTT on Page 26

Adam Scott and his caddie Steve Williams reacts to his putt dropping on the second hole of a playoff to win the Masters golf tournament, Sunday, April 14, 2013, in Augusta. Runner-up Angel Cabrera watches in the background. Scott became the first Australian to win the Masters.

AP

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The IT&E Fielders' Ricardo Dela Cruz waits for a pitch during their game against the D-9ers in the SML last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Fielders hammer D-9ers in SML

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The IT&E Fielders coasted to a 19-5 win against the slumping D-9ers in a regular season season game in the 2013 Saipan Major League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders played their

See FIELDERS on Page 26

Lopez, Race dethrone mixed doubles foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The pair of Mikayla Lopez and Jeff Race foiled Bobby Cruz and Thea Minor's bid for back-to-back mixed doubles championship in last Sunday's 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships held at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Lopez and Race snatched the title away from Cruz and Minor after winning the extended finale last weekend, 6-0, 4-6, 7-5. The victory was sort of a revenge for Lopez, who teamed up with Tim Quan last year and bowed to Cruz and Minor, also in a three-set title match, 6-1, 4-6, 6-7 (7-4).

The new champions advanced to the finals after beating siblings Rafael and Emily Jones in the second semis game last Saturday, 6-2, 6-1. Minor and Cruz played in the first semis pairing last Friday and also nailed a sweep against Roy Pangelinan and Lydia Tan, 6-3, 6-3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mikayla Lopez, seen here going for a backhand return in an earlier game in the PIC tennis, teamed up with Jeff Race in beating Thea Minor and Bobby Cruz in the mixed open doubles finals last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Meanwhile, three other pairs clinched doubles crowns over the weekend. The list includes the tandems of Reo Arriola and Chieko Nagao, Robbie Schorr and Tony Kim, and Carol Lee and Tania Tan.

Arriola and Nagao bagged the mixed double 3.0 title after beatng Don Castillo and Marivic Rosario in a pro-set finale last Sunday, 8-3. Nagao and Arriola took the first finals berth last Friday, following a 6-2, 6-0 triumph over Haruya Eda and Mimi Sakano. A 6-1, 6-1 win over mother and son Michael and Flor Jones gave Castillo and Rosario the second and last finals ticket.

In the round-robin U12 doubles, Schorr found a new team-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An Ol'Aces runner slides first to third base during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game against the Lions in the Senior League of the SLLB last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Easy wins for Ol'Aces, Fielders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces tamed the Lions, 14-4, during the first game in the Senior League of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Terson Eina started out for the Ol'Aces and pitched 4.2 innings, striking out nine, allowing only five hits, and giving up to earned runs to power his team to the easy victory. He also went 4-for-5 from the

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